

Sabita's Outstanding Achievement Award for 2008 acknowledges new protocol for cooperation

The bituminous products industry's most prestigious award, the Sabita 2008 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Bituminous Products Technology, was presented to Krishna Naidoo of eThekweni Municipality and consultant Tony Lewis for their outstanding efforts to advance sustainable practice. The presentation followed Sabita's annual general meeting in Durban on 18 June and acknowledged the recipients' "exceptional courage, leadership and enthusiasm in pioneering the introduction of warm mix asphalt technology in eThekweni Municipality, which included the establishment of partnerships with industry for the planning, construction and systematic appraisal of trial sections." The award citation notes that the recipients spearheaded the first formal warm mix asphalt trials in SA, placing an initial trial section at the end of 2008 and a second trial section during May 2009.

National template for introducing innovative products

"It is noteworthy that the recipients have established a broad base of cooperation between the asphalt industry, client and consultants to underpin the orderly introduction of innovative technology. To this end they have established a protocol of procedures that will serve as a national template for the introduction of a range of innovative products.

The scope of their achievements also extended to the use of reclaimed asphalt, not only in warm mix, but also in their ongoing efforts to use this hydrocarbon asset to blacktop gravel roads in a cost-efficient manner.

All these activities are considered to be landmarks on the road to more sustainable practice in the asphalt sector at a time when this aspect is a global focal point in road construction. We have no doubt that the outcomes of the project have already and will continue to reflect notable progress to advance best practice in bituminous product technology in the interests of reduced reliance on non-renewable resources and reduced harmful emissions."

Accepting the award from Sabita's Chariman of Council, Phillip Hechter, Naidoo stressed that he was really doing so on behalf of his senior Roy Gooden and "a great team from the Municipality that includes Seelan Naidoo, Daniel Mtimkulu and Eric Lathleiff."

WMA for routine use in eThekweni

"As for the WMA interest group itself," he said, "it has been great being part of a team that has brought so many people together, some for the first time and from different countries and continents. The interaction has been so positive that I feel that we have become more than just colleagues. The eThekweni Municipality is looking forward to specifying the use of WMA for routine use in its projects, as well as specifying the use of higher contents of RA in its asphalt mixes, also for routine use."

Naidoo noted that his department is looking to the establishment of an "Energy number" or "Sustainability Index" for pavement layers.

Tony Lewis, with extensive experience in South Africa and in the Far East, also acknowledged the contributions of the team which worked on the project.

"What we have achieved in developing warm mix asphalt technology is without doubt due to the enthusiasm and team spirit among the WMA Interest Group, which includes road and municipal authorities, asphalt suppliers, the WMA technology suppliers, as well of course Sabita. This strong team has been a pleasure to work with and has ensured our progress towards environmentally friendly, sustainable asphalt products."

The trials which prompted the Sabita award were extensively reported in **asphaltNEWS** in issue 3 of 2008 and issue 1 of 2009.