

FROM Paul Adams

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## **BUILDING TRUST**

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Sika Scoops Unilever Ice Cream Project

As a reliable supplier of high performance flooring systems, Sika recently scooped the contract for flooring Unilever's new state-of-the-art ice cream factory at Lord's View Industrial Park, Midrand. The first factory of its kind in Africa, it boasts the latest green technology including zero waste to landfill and the use of smart water efficiency technology.

Engineers from Pharmadule, together with advice from **Sika** representative Chad Tosen, specified six **Sika** products for sealing, screeding and coating of the factory floor. All **Sika** products specified are approved for use in food processing plants, and boast multi-international endorsements. Industrial flooring specialist, Seal Con Systems was contracted for the 2600m<sup>2</sup> project which included extensive grinding of the floors prior to application of the **Sika** products.

Cracks and voids in the floor were filled with **Sikadur-52 ZA**, a two-part, low viscosity injection liquid, based on high strength epoxy resins. Solvent-free and suitable for both dry and damp conditions, **Sikadur-52 ZA** provides good adhesion to concrete, mortar, stone, steel and wood. It provides shrinkage-free hardening and not only forms an effective barrier against water infiltration and corrosion-promoting media, but also structurally bonds concrete sections together. Since low temperatures do not affect its performance, **Sikadur-52 ZA** was ideal for this project, which took place during winter.

Floors were primed with **Sikafloor-161**, a two-part, solvent-free, low viscosity epoxy resin that is economical and easy to apply. Suitable for normal to strong absorbent surfaces, it provides excellent bond strength and short waiting times. The primer was overlaid with a 6mm coating of **Sikafloor-21 N PurCem**, (1100m² beige, 1500m² dark grey), a three-part, water-dispersed, medium to high strength, polyurethane modified cement and aggregate screed with self-smoothing properties. Its excellent flow characteristics allowed for easy application while its aesthetically pleasing smooth textured aggregate surface is easy to clean and provides medium slip resistance.

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Since the factory was newly constructed, the large, obstacle-free, open floor area allowed for even quicker application of the already easy-to-use **Sika** products. Coving and detailing work was coated with **Sikafloor-29 N PurCem**, a three-part, water-dispersed, coloured polyurethane modified cement and aggregate mortar with a finely textured smooth aggregate appearance.

Both Sikafloor-21 N PurCem and Sikafloor-29 N PurCem possess a similar coefficient of thermal expansion to concrete while their bond strengths exceed the tensile strength of concrete. Both products are jointless, easily maintained and provide excellent resistance to chemical attack, abrasion and mechanical damage. They are non-taint, odourless, VOC free and fast-curing, allowing full service after only two days. Detailing areas coated with Sikafloor-29 N PurCem were subsequently sealed with Sikafloor-31 N PurCem, an economical three-part, solvent-free, high build, coloured polyurethane modified, cement and aggregate coating, offering the same high resistance to chemicals, abrasion and mechanical damage as the other PurCem products.

The floor was finally sealed with **Sikaflex PRO-3 i-Cure**, a one-part, moisture-curing, elastic joint sealant that incorporates Sika's advanced i-Cure Technology. Designed to reduce emissions, i-Cure sealants and adhesives are solvent-free and totally odourless, thereby meeting the highest and increasingly stringent international emission standards. **Sikaflex PRO-3** provides a movement capability of 25%, bubble-free curing and high mechanical and chemical resistance. This high performance, multi-purpose sealant is suitable for indoor and outdoor applications.

Since data shows that per capita, South Africans consume only one litre of ice cream per annum, compared to 15 litres per annum consumed by New Zealanders, Unilever is confident that its novel R600 million environmentally efficient factory has significant growth potential. This project was a perfect example of **Sika's** state-of-the-art 'green' products enhancing a state-of-the-art green design.

For more information on Sika products and systems, visit www.sika.co.za

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## **Sika AG Corporate Profile**

Sika AG, is a globally active specialty chemicals company with its South African Head Office based in Durban, and branches in all major SA cities.

Sika AG, located in Baar, Switzerland, supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, facades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures. Sika's product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems. Sika has subsidiaries in 93 countries around the world and manufactures in over 170 factories, with some 17 281 employees link customers directly to Sika and guarantee the success of all partners. Sika generated annual sales of CHF 5.49 billion in 2015.

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