MCT Italy srl, Bettona (PG), Italy

# Fletcher Buildings Firth Industries commissions a new concrete batching and mixing plant in New Zealand

**Fletcher Building's Firth Industries is New Zealand's leading supplier of concrete and masonry products, committed to innovation and sustainability in construction. The EcoMix range and advanced facilities reflect the dedication to reducing carbon emissions and supporting a circular economy.**

Firth Industries is part of Fletchers' heavy building materials division, which also includes Winstone Aggregates, and Golden Bay Cement. Talks first began in 2019, with the initial glimpse of the plans revealed in 2023, for what would become New Zealand's largest and most advanced concrete plant at Sims Road, Auckland. The vision for this impressive new facility was to centralise the dispatch team for all of Firth Auckland and relocate operations from Firth's plants at Leonard Road in Central Auckland and Hamer Street in downtown Auckland.

## Delivering advanced concrete production solutions in Auckland

Growing demand for more environmentally friendly concrete was the driver behind the opening of New Zealand's newest and biggest ready-made concrete plant.

Allwest Engineering, in collaboration with MCT Italy, has successfully delivered the FIRTH 882 concrete batching plant—an advanced, high-performance solution designed to support growing infrastructure and construction demands in New Zealand.

The project represents a significant step forward in modernising concrete production capabilities, combining world-class batching technology with local engineering expertise. Designed to meet stringent performance, quality, and efficiency requirements, the FIRTH 882 plant highlights the strength of international collaboration in delivering tailored industrial solutions.

## A customised approach to concrete production

The FIRTH 882 plant has been engineered to meet the specific operational needs of Firth, one of New Zealand's leading concrete suppliers. Drawing on MCT Italy's global experience in batching plant design and automation, the solution integrates high-precision dosing systems, advanced mixing technology, and fully automated process control. The plant has been configured to deliver consistent, high-quality concrete across a wide range of mix designs. Its flexibility enables

*Firth now open for business*

*Efficiency through automation and control*

efficient handling of varying production demands, ensuring reliability for both large-scale infrastructure projects and day-to-day supply requirements.

Fletcher Building's Thornton Williams, who is chief executive of the heavy building materials division, said the new plant would be the biggest ready-made concrete facility in the country.

It had allowed the company to consolidate facilities and would add to its capacity, with two drive-through production lanes that could be in use at one time, he said.

"That allows us to service the requirements of the commercial and residential sectors at the same time and at a greater scale, which is a big step in terms of efficiency."

Central to the project is the integration with automation systems, which provide full control over batching operations. These systems allow real-time monitoring of production data, accurate material dosing, and complete traceability of each batch.

This level of automation not only enhances production efficiency but also ensures compliance with strict quality standards. By minimising manual intervention and reducing variability, the plant delivers repeatable, high-quality output while optimising operational performance.

## Over 240 m³/h of concrete

The FIRTH 882 batching plant has been designed and configured to deliver high-performance concrete production with a strong focus on precision, flexibility, and operational efficiency.

Key technical features include:

- No. 4 x 30 m³ drive over bins
- No. 18 aggregates bins for a total storage of over 2.000 ton of material

*MCT batch plant during assembly*

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BATCHING EXCELLENCE

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*MCT batch plant mixer floor*

*Christian May, CCO – Peter Crowley, Chairman Fletcher Building – Cameron Lee, GM of Firth, cut the ribbon*

- No. 18 independent aggregates weighing scale of 3.5 m³ capacity each
- No. 5 steel, poly and glass fiber dispenser
- No. 6 cement silo of 100 ton each, shared between two alley
- No. 2 wet alleys with a twin shaft mixer of 3.35 m³ output each
- Automatic power and granulate color dosing systems
- Integrated water management and recycling system
- Slump stands with truck wheel wash
- Over 240 m³/h of concrete, to keep pace with the demand for housing, infrastructure, and commercial development.

## Decarbonising of Concrete

The plant was not just designed with volume in mind, it had a strong focus on reducing Firth's impact on the environment, and sustainability was at the heart of the design.

Firth Industries general manager Cameron Lee said: "The "cutting-edge facility" would not only enable the company to efficiently serve the needs of major construction and infrastructure projects, but it will be the central supplier for an innovative low-carbon concrete that reduces embodied carbon without compromising strength or performance, which allows builders and developers to meet their sustainability targets". "It has increased capacity for the use of supplementary cementitious materials, such as slag, fly ash, and recycled concrete aggregates, which helps to reduce $CO_2$ emissions. The plant also had a fully integrated, automated concrete reclaiming and wastewater system which enabled 100% reuse of wastewater", he said.

That meant high-volume production with even lower carbon and reduced waste to help drive growth in a circular economy.

"Decarbonising of concrete is a big topic for our sector, and demand for it is coming from asset owners who are clear they want a more sustainable material."

## Collaboration driving success

The successful delivery of the Firth plant reflects the strong partnership between Allwest Engineering and MCT Italy. By combining local project management and installation expertise with internationally proven technology, the project was completed efficiently and to a high standard. This collaboration demonstrates the value of aligning global innovation with local execution—resulting in a solution that is both technically advanced and operationally practical.

## Management perspectives

The successful delivery of the Fletcher batching plant has been recognized by both Firth and MCT Italy as a key milestone in advancing concrete production capabilities in New Zealand.

Head of Asset Management & Northern Certified, Francis Leslie commented:

*Gabriele Falchetti, MCT VP Business Development – Francis Leisle Head of Asset Management*

"The FIRTH 882 plant represents a significant investment in our production capabilities. The level of automation and process control allows us to ensure consistent quality across all our operations, while maintaining the flexibility required to meet diverse project demands."

"Sims Road will be key to Firth Auckland's success over the next 20 years," says Reon Bartie, Certified Area Operations Manager (Auckland) for Firth. "We have had the plant running for a few weeks now and are pleased to report that it is operating just as intended," adds Reon. "We have already put it through its paces with a few early starts and some big days. It's going very well - exactly as we had hoped."

From MCT Italy, the project also highlights the value of combining advanced technology with a deep understanding of local environmental and customer needs.

VP Business Development Gabriele Falchetti from MCT Italy stated:

"This project reflects our approach to delivering tailored solutions that integrate automation, precision, and reliability. By working closely with both Firth and Allwest Engineering, we have developed a plant that meets the highest standards of performance while supporting long-term operational efficiency." ■

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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