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JULY 2004

## **Cover Story**

This month's cover shows the plant of Holcim Cement at Fès, Morocco. The upgraded plant is currently under commissioning and the first cement bag was delivered in mid-May 2004. ABB Switzerland, the global power and automation technology group has successfully delivered equipment for the new cement grinding and packing at the plant and was selected as the electrical and automation equipment subsupplier for the project. (see page 55).

The owner Holcim (Maroc) decided to increase cement production by installing a second cement mill and packing plant. The project contract was awarded to Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd Japan (KHI) in 2002.

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All the essential news from the global cement industry.

Including cement investment plans for Thailand's biggest conglomerate, details of Taiheiyo's year-end performance and reports of more Indian consolidation on the cards as Cimpor eyes new opportunities.



#### 20 Patience remains a virtue

by ICR Research

The German cement industry is preparing for better times as hopes for higher domestic cement prices begin to raise optimism for a more prosperous future.



#### 29 Master machinery makers

by ICR Research

A showcase of technical equipment reviews from a host of leading German suppliers. Products range from mills and drive systems to bagging, conveying and software systems.

# Bridging the gap

by ABB, Switzerland

Holcim Morocco is currently commissioning the upgrade of its new Ras El Ma plant, near Fès, Morocco. ABB was awarded the subcontract for electrical and automation equipment for the cement grinding and packing facilities at the works.

BB successfully delivered the electrical and automation equipment for the upgraded cement grinding and packing plant of Holcim Morocco at Fès-Ras El Ma plant.

This new unit is currently under commissioning with the first cement bag delivered in mid-May 2004.

Holcim Morocco decided to increase cement production by installing a second cement mill and packing plant. The contract was awarded to Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd Japan (KHI) in 2002. ABB Switzerland was selected as the electrical and automation equipment sub-supplier.

#### **Scope of supply**

The ABB scope of supply comprises the medium voltage distribution, transformers, low voltage distribution (MCC), Drive IT medium and low voltage fix and variable speed drives, Operate IT and Control IT process control system and instrumentation and lighting equipment. The appropriate engineering and commissioning are also part of the ABB scope. As a result of a close collaboration between Holcim, KHI and ABB a high automation degree could be reached. The whole mill section can be started up by one mouse-click.





#### **Tradition continues**

ABB already supplied the electrical equipment for the existing production line to Holcim Morocco in the 1990s and in the 1970s, ABB supplied electrical and control equipment to the two Holcim production lines in Oujda, Morocco.

With this new project ABB continues to improve its market leading position in the cement industry. The cement plant in Ras El Ma is part of Holcim Morocco, which is

Mill main motor

continuously investing in modernisations of its existing plants as well building new production facilities. The company is part of the Holcim Group, one of the largest cement producers in the world with production units in some 70 countries and with 47,000 employees.

#### **Bridging the gap**

Industrial IT describes the ABB group commitment to bridging the gap between

industrial and business assets and the information technology (IT) required to integrate these components in real time. The commitment encompasses a portfolio of compatible product building blocks for power, automation and information; a robust, open architecture for integrated solutions; plus the domain expertise acquired through more than 100 years of meeting customer needs.