Simem America Corporation, USA

How Colonial Precast Strengthened Its Edge by Upgrading Its Batching Capabilities

Running a concrete plant today means more than just producing a quality mix; it's about staying competitive, maintaining uptime, and delivering consistent quality your customers can rely on. For small and medium-sized precast producers, every decision counts. The right investment can determine whether you keep pace with market demands or fall behind.

That's exactly why Colonial Precast Concrete, a trusted prestressed concrete producer based in Placida, Florida, partnered with Simem America to upgrade their batching capabilities and secure their long-term growth.

A Company Built on Quality

Under the leadership of Ron Heilbron, a licensed professional engineer with over three decades of experience, the company has built a solid reputation for quality, dependability, and forward thinking.
Colonial Precast has produced over 40 million square feet of hollow-core planks for various projects across the Southeastern U.S., including multi-family residences, hotels, schools, and assisted living facilities. The company has been operating a used Simem plant that was purchased in 2013. According to Heilbron, "We are very pleased with the performance of our existing Simem plant, a model from 2005. We consistently run 125 yards per day, 5 days a week, for 50 weeks a year, with little to no downtime." However, due to increased client demand, Colonial Precast needed to boost production output, which required a capital investment in a new plant.

The Challenge: Delivering to Growing Demands

To continue its growth and protect their excellent reputation, Colonial Precast needed a batch plant that could deliver consistent quality, streamline operations, and withstand Florida's demanding climate. Heilbron notes, "Our original Simem plant survived five hurricanes, and the galvanized steel held up, and it had minimal corrosion." Among the hurricanes was Hurricane Ian, which devastated the Fort Myers, FL area in 2022. Ron knows firsthand the effect that this storm had; the hurricane left his entire facility submerged in water and shut

Eagle 4000 complete batch plant with hot dipped galvanized steel construction.

Simem Nexus galvanized steel aggregate storage system – 4 bins, approximately 30 tons per bin. Galvanization keeps the bins free of corrosion, extending their life in humid and coastal areas.

off from power for weeks. This highlights the resiliency of Simem's hot-dipped galvanized steel construction, which is a standard feature of all Simem plants.

The Solution: The Simem Eagle 4000

After evaluating several options and considering the quality and reliability of the existing Simem plant, Heilbron chose the Simem Eagle 4000, a semi-mobile, high-performance batch plant designed for producers seeking reliability and scalability.

The Eagle plant is prepared for shipment. The main mixer platform and belt conveyor condense into one shipment for easy transport on standard sized trailers. Pre-assembly makes the plant quick and easy to erect.

Rhyno 4000 3.25 yard twin shaft mixer.

2005 Model Simem plant used by Colonial Precast since 2013, following years of successful operation of this plant, Colonial opted for another Simem batch plant to deliver to their growing list of clients.

Constructed from hot-dipped galvanized steel for maximum corrosion resistance, the Eagle 4000 offers batch capacities ranging from 2 to 6 cubic yards and can discharge directly into ready-mix trucks, forklift buckets, or concrete distributors. Its modular design allows for rapid setup – in as little as three weeks – and provides flexibility for relocation as production needs change.

Even more impressive, the Eagle 4000 offers precision control, enabling producers to manage a wide range of mix designs, including self-consolidating, dry-cast, high-fiber, and traditional slump mixes, all with minimal waste and consistent results.

Simem's Eagle 4000 batch plant utilizes the Simem Rhyno 4000 twin shaft mixer with a 3.25 yard per batch output. This mixer builds on the MSO twinshaft mixer's decades of success with several key improvements. Most notable is the improved accessibility for service, significantly reducing the time and man hours required for various maintenance procedures. In addition, the Rhyno has a new paddle design with improved performance for small size aggregates. As a commitment to long time customers Simem has made the wear parts for the new mixer backwards compatible with the prior generation mixer.

Producers operating Simem equipment have reported:

- Reduction in material costs thanks to precise ingredient utilization
- Fewer unplanned shutdowns and maintenance interruptions
- Consistent product quality across every pour

For Colonial Precast, that means better margins, faster delivery, and greater confidence with every order.

A Partnership That Delivers

Simem America's difference goes beyond equipment. Their USA-based team of field experts partners directly with producers to ensure smooth installation, training, and long-term support.

In addition, Simem America services all their clients with USA-based spare parts and a stateside remote service team available at a moment's notice.

Simem's experience and service focused approach made them the ideal choice for Colonial Precast, providing the Eagle 4000's production power and reliability along with outstanding support throughout the process. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

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