



SOCIETY FOR ASPHALT TECHNOLOGY

NEWSLETTER FOR SABITA'S ASPHALT NEWS : December 2018

The Society got off to an energetic start to the 2018-year when a well attended workshop on **“New Developments in Bitumen-Rubber Blends”** was held by the Central Region in Pretoria on 01st March.

Delegates were introduced to the development of the new A-R2 and S-R2 products as well as applications like the New Rubber Crumb Technology (NCRT) and Bitumen Rubber Ultra-Thin Friction Course (BRUTFC). Recent developments including new technologies for blending at lower temperatures and the added benefit of increased shelf life were presented.

This was followed by a highly successful Seminar in Stellenbosch on 02nd March, presented by the Southern Region in conjunction with Stellenbosch University, on **“Latest Research, Innovation and Technological Developments in Pavement Engineering”**. Six international presenters from USA, Europe and China shared with a full house of delegates some of the latest research on HMA modelling, rheological properties of binders including bitumen emulsion, innovation in pavement technology, asphalt reinforcement, ageing/healing of top-down cracking, HMA quality control and sustainable practices.

Shortly after this, on 22nd March, the Eastern Cape Region held a lively debate on **“Quality Sampling and Testing on Site”** at which delegates and participants focused on key areas of Road Construction in terms of sampling and testing asphalt, stabilised sub-base, G1 basecourse, concrete and bitumen.

The ever-enthusiastic leadership of the Eastern Cape, held an entertaining **“Bowls Day”** on the 12th April, to enable the members to socialize and network.

On 19th April, the Eastern Region held an experiential lessons-learned workshop entitled **“Common Mistakes and Advices in Design, Specification and Construction of Bitumen-based Products”** at which industry players (Clients, Consultants and Contractors) shared their experiences. Some of the issues discussed included designing, specifying, construction and quality control of Warm Mix Asphalt, EME, Reclaimed Asphalt, Nano-technology, BSM's and more.

The first 2018 National Round Robin workshop was held in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Pretoria during the week of the 29th May to 04th June, and dealt with **“Innovations In Bitumen Emulsions”**. Topics discussed included: Bituminous emulsions in RSA – what have we got now, and what products could be under development to cope with challenges in the years ahead; compatibility, suitability and appropriateness of current and future bitumen emulsion products; emulsification of pre-modified binders; quick-set bond strength to cope with high trafficked areas - some new perspectives and the way forward; preventing run-off at steep grades; thin quality surfacing throughout the year; stability, flexibility, durability and self healing, and much more....

In keeping with the Society's practical approach to technology exchange, the Southern Region conducted a **site visit to the new Spray Pave bitumen converter** in Cape Town on 06th July. This highly sophisticated system converts 70/100 pen grade bitumen to 50/70 pen grade, and those attending enjoyed a stimulating informative afternoon.

In order to keep members up to date on industry issues, the Eastern Cape region convened a feedback session on 13th July in Port Elizabeth, to discuss issues presented at the **Road Pavement Forum** held in May in Cape Town. All RPF presentations are available to members for downloading from the CSIR website.



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On 28th August, and still in the Eastern Cape, SAT, in conjunction with BSM Laboratories presented a seminar on “**Bitumen Stabilised Materials for pavement rehabilitation projects in South Africa**”. This took place in East London at which Dave Collings and André Greyling (both internationally recognised experts in bitumen stabilisation technology) presented the latest developments in the application of this technology together with an overview of the new TG2 guideline document.

The second 2018 National Round Robin workshop was held in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Pretoria, during the week of the 03rd September to 06th September, and dealt with “**A Practical Guide to Beginners on The Bailey Method**”. This method gives practitioners tools to develop and adjust aggregate blends. It also helps to ensure aggregate interlock and good aggregate packing, ensuring better resistance to permanent deformation, while maintaining the volumetric properties that provide resistance to environmental distress.

With ten diverse events having happened during 2018 year, SAT is alive and well and have many new and exciting things lined up for 2019.

The Southern Region is preparing a number of workshops on the “**Understanding....**” **Series**, with a view to updating members on aspects of aggregate, bitumen, binders, mix design, production, paving and compaction of asphalts.

Many other events will take place in 2019 - Watch this space.

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