

Easily laying asphalt in Nijmegen



TOPCON
AT WORK

“Even driving in a straight line is done automatically”

“GPS-masts help determine the position”

It is a sunny, but cold day in October and on a crossing between the Westkanaaldijk and the Heemstraweg, near Weurt – on the border with Nijmegen – it is a coming and going of employees. Many curious employees of BAM's Infra Roads department are gathered with great interest around their new asphalt laying machine: the Vögele 1900-2, equipped with the new Topcon Millimeter GPS system. A feat of modern technology that has many looking on in amazement whilst warming themselves on the newly lain asphalt.

On this future road towards Nijmegen it will be the first time in the Netherlands that asphalt is being laid with Topcon's Millimeter GPS. Through a combination of double GPS-receivers and rotating zone lasers the asphalt is not only being lain with millimeter accuracy, but also the driver has little else to do than open and close the feeder truck with material. Even driving in a straight line is done automatically. Close cooperation between Topcon, TSD Integrated Controls (cooperation between Topcon and Sauer-Danfoss) and the German paving specialists of Vögele has led to a revolutionary solution that makes laying asphalt much easier. Roadware was the assigned Dutch company to offer this revolutionary technique to BAM.

Basis of the system is Topcon's 3DXI, a central computer and color screen that gathers all the information about height and location. This information is then passed on to the hydraulics and this takes care of height adjustments and the movements of the screed. Also the driving direction of the machine is automatically adjusted. The rotating lasers by the side of the road constantly give information about the height of the job at hand and pass this on to the central system. The two GPS-masts help in determining the position of the machine compared to the model. This way the paving machine knows exactly where it is and more importantly, where it is going. Through this combination of determining height and position the system can adjust the machine and the screed automatically to make sure everything remains straight and within the model.

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