

Precool cold storage

State-of-the-art cold storage facility opened

March 2019 saw the launch of the Precool cold storage facility project, which came about when Maersk heard of Precool's plans to expand their capabilities for storage, mainly for the rapidly increasing need for extra cold rooms for the citrus industry. By Gloria Weare



slots for fruit requiring specialised cooling.

There are now seven additional loading bays that can accommodate in excess of 100 trucks daily. All loading bays lead to a temperature-controlled holding area where product is held, before being moved into dedicated temperature controlled storage rooms to ensure the cold chain is maintained.

The facility will also be used as a model in the Maersk expansion strategy and its successful operation will result in it being rolled out to other sites throughout SA.

The design specification for the refrigeration system is an energy-efficient, multi-temperature transcritical CO₂ system that takes the important factors around global warming and environmental impact into account. Both Precool Cold Storage and Maersk strive for a minimal carbon footprint. The virtually climate neutral CO₂ is one of the refrigerants of the future, boasting a global warming potential of 1. This transcritical CO₂ installation is the biggest in Africa. Another unique feature is that the facility can handle both fresh fruit and out-of-season fruit, and can switch over room-by-room quite quickly to frozen storage of -25°C. Multi-temperature facilities such as this are very rare. 

This article was written with permission from Precool Cold Storage. For more details on this facility, please visit www.coldlinkafrica.co.za (March/April 2021 edition) or contact Precool Cold Storage directly at 031 732 2587, Manny on 082 555 1914 or email carlos@precoolcoldstorage.com



Above: Staff on site visit. Left: cold room with mobile racking system.

linking the rest of Africa to the Durban port.

Precool Cold Storage CEO, Manny Dos Anjos, was approached by Maersk, and after combining their respective business proposals they reached a favourable outcome for both parties and the agreement was concluded. Manny Dos Anjos, whose experience in the cold storage arena spans more than 20 years, oversaw the development with the assistance of the appointed architect and engineers. He also specified the requirements of the refrigeration and electrical systems for the project.

The expansion (11 000m²) increased the capacity of the current operations substantially, allowing Precool to now handle in excess of 12 500 pallet spaces between the two facilities in 11 different chambers, with a temperature range of between ambient and -25°C. The size of the new facility was based on the direct correlation and maximum utilisation of the space available and can now also accommodate an additional 7 500 pallets of commercial refrigerated product, as well as 2 500 steri-



For a long time congestion down at Durban harbour has resulted in hundreds of trucks arriving in quick succession, and having to queue to offload, with long turnaround times hampering the efficiency of the cold chain.

The Citrus Growers Association (CGA) became very active in relevant discussions, as CGA Logistics Development Manager Mitchell Brooke saw the benefits of having an increased storage facility away from the congested port, but still in close proximity to the N3 freeway, which is the main artery

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Ekonomiese opsie

Sumimax® WP word op die grond toegedien voor opkoms van die onkruid vir optimale onkruidbeheer. In boorde en wingerde kan dit met glifosaat of parakwat volgens die aanwysings in 'n tenkengsel toegedien word op bestaande onkruidse. Hierdie strategie bied groot ekonomiese voordele omdat slegs een toediening gewoonlik langtermyn beheer bied teen die maksimum dosis.

Talle voordele

Sumimax® WP spog met verskeie voordele:

- Lang nawerking
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- Na toediening kan die produk vir 'n bepaalde periode bo-op die grond lê tot reënval of besproeiing die produk aktiveer
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- Werk doeltreffend in 'n wye verskeidenheid grondtipes
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