

# The application of asphalt

**Plant Supply has launched a new system that converts an ordinary tipper truck into a complete asphalt/aggregate application system in just 15 minutes. Highways editor Alec Peachey finds out more**

**The Sprider M25 offers a quicker alternative to traditional hand laying techniques and allows a user to spread the exact amount of asphalt just where it is needed.**

This means less manual work in shovelling, raking and clearing up. As a user, you just have to fold the Sprider arm down and start the screw to feed the asphalt out.

The Sprider is fully insulated, which means that it retains heat and makes the asphalt easier to rake out and compact.

Plant Supply, which is based in Mid Glamorgan, was established to distribute equipment into the recycling and quarry sectors. It represents a number of manufacturers in Europe – the main supplier being Smico – one of the oldest quarry and asphalt screener manufacturers in the world.

The company is the sole distributor of Sprider in the UK and Ireland. Managing director Sean Reilly said: *“When I first viewed the Sprider equipment it became evident that it represented a major technological advancement in asphalt handling and application.”*

*“The M25 radically improves work rates of hand laying and pothole repairs and ensures the quality and application of asphalt being applied is of the*

*highest possible standards, especially when used in conjunction with our Scandinavian sourced high thermal ability tipper bodies.*

*“We have proven in UK trials for some of the largest contractors that loading mini pavers with the M25 has led to a dramatic increase in work rate and performance.”*

## Speed and accuracy

The insulation means that the asphalt can be left in the Sprider arm when moving around a site and during short breaks it won't solidify. In addition, the insulation means it's less likely that the asphalt will stick, which makes cleaning easier. If the insulation is not thick enough, the Sprider can be equipped with electric heating.

The system can also be retrofitted to most insulated tipper trucks and can demount and remount in five minutes.

Adds Reilly: *“The M25 allows manpower to be redistributed as it only takes two people to operate and lay asphalt at rates of up to 30 to 40 tonnes per hour with no manual lifting involved. This means that it is not just suitable for hand laying but can also be used to supply a small asphalt spreader beside the road.”*

With the state of the UK's road network reaching crisis point Reilly feels it is

an ideal time to bring the product to market.

*“The UK's road network has reached a critical status in terms of quality and maintenance and the pressure on these roads is rapidly reaching breaking point,”* he notes. *“The lack of investment has resulted in the poor overall condition of our roads and the responsibility for this is governmental. There needs to be a medium to long term strategy of investment in new roads and extensive rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure.”*

According to the company, Sprider can be adapted to suit customer requirements as there is a choice of specifications for the transport arm. The range can be varied between 4.3 and five metres, which means that the Sprider arm can reach an area of 32 to 50m<sup>2</sup>. In the transport position, the Sprider can either be lifted vertically or fixed at an angle to the truck bed. The vertical transport position makes the vehicle shorter, with more space for a trailer, whereas the angled position gives better ground clearance. ☹

## Advantages

- Fast set up time at job site
- Reduced manual handling
- Improved presentation of material to application site
- Reduced wastage
- High work rates
- Reduced manpower requirement
- Product retention and workability greatly increased.

*Asphalt can be laid at rates of up to 30 to 40 tonnes per hour with the Sprider*

