MELLOSE non-dispersible Underwater Concrete Admixture

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The Need
Many under-water civil engineering structures are affected not only by the presence of water or salt but also by water pressure, flow of water, and by the different material’s density. These factors could cause cracks, corrosion, and dispersion of concrete particles.

The Technology
Mellose is a viscose agent based on under water Cellulose (Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose). It is commonly referred to as a self-leveling agent that increases viscosity when is dissolved in water. It can be also described as an anti-washout concrete or non-dispersible concrete mixture. Mellose is an essential component of high performance concrete construction under water.
In under-water construction the concrete particles can be either separated or lost because of water pressure, water flows or different densities. When Mellose is added, it prevents the loss of cement in the mortar and the separation of the concrete particles due to its increased viscosity. It combines first with the water than with the cement and the other concrete particles.

**Figure 3 Concrete particles adding MELLOSE under water (water pictured as black dots)**

**The Benefits**
Mellose increases the viscosity of suspended concrete but decreases the viscosity of flowing concrete. Therefore, it increases the workability of the concrete, while there is no separation of its aggregates. It prevents the segregation of aggregates as well as the bleeding when used for under water construction. The product comes in the form of a powder that is added as a concrete admixture.

**Status**
The product has been successfully applied by several Korean construction contractors like, Hyundai Construction and Dong-A Construction for the construction of the main tower in the Kwang-an Great Bridge in Korea.

**Barriers**
Mellose can not be used with Naphtalene Sulphonate because of chemical reactions.
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REFERENCES
1. MECA Engineering Co., LTD. MEL-Series Catalog Information

REVIEWERS
Peer reviewed as an emerging construction technology

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