



Port of
Rotterdam

Newsletter

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PROJECT ORGANIZATION
MAASVLAKTE 2

NEW LAND, NEW PEOPLE

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What up to a few weeks ago was a new uninhabited island off the coast of the Maasvlakte is now an island with people living on it. Bulldozers are now busy shifting the new sand into the right places. And in just a few years time, the first ships will be mooring here.

Day and night, trailing suction hopper dredgers are sailing back and forth with loads of sand that they deposit, 'rainbow' or pump to shore through a pipeline. Each ship makes the round trip an average of six times a day to extract sand roughly ten kilometres off the coast and then deposit it to create Maasvlakte 2.

A round trip like this takes about three-and-a-half hours. Every week, the ships transport around two million cubic metres of sand, with the current total at more than thirty million m³. Around three kilometres off the coast, the first signs of a banana-shaped island are becoming visible. When completed, this island will be connected to the existing coastline. That will 'push' the sea current outward, thus making it easier for ships to moor at Rotterdam. It will also make life easier for building contractor PUMA, because it will create a protected inner 'bay', where it is easier and safer to work. And it



will also ensure that the newly deposited sand stays in place.

CONSTRUCTION PACE

The spraying of sand for the construction sites is also continuing at the same steady

pace. And if the contractors can maintain their current speed, the first container ship will be able to moor at the new quay on Maasvlakte 2 by 2013. ■

APPEAL WITHDRAWN

FAUNA PROTECTION FOUNDATION SIGNS AGREEMENT

The Fauna Protection Foundation has dropped its appeal against the building permit for Maasvlakte 2. Instead, on 19 May the foundation signed an agreement with the Port of Rotterdam Authority outlining measures to protect seabirds and their breeding grounds in the Voordelta.

The most important point in the agreement is that the Port of Rotterdam Authority will draw up management schemes for brooding lesser black-backed gulls, common terns, velvet

scoters and Sandwich terns on Maasvlakte 2 and the existing Maasvlakte. These schemes will be implemented from March 2010 onward. The Port of Rotterdam Authority has pledged to provide

sufficient brooding opportunities for black-backed gulls. The Fauna Protection Foundation expects around 25,000 black-backed gulls to lay their eggs on the new site. The Port of Rotterdam Authority

has also guaranteed sufficient resting and feeding areas for terns and velvet scoters. The appeal by the Fauna Protection Foundation was the last ongoing appeal against the construction of Maasvlakte 2. The work on Maasvlakte 2 can now continue without risk of delay. ■



NEW PORTS, NEW NAMES

Three ports on Maasvlakte 2 will be given the names of Princesses Amalia, Alexia and Ariane, the daughters of Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima. This was announced by Queen Beatrix on 29 April during her visit to FutureLand, the information centre for Maasvlakte 2.

The Queen unveiled the names of Princess Amaliahaven, Princess Alexiahaven and Princess Arianehaven at a gathering of 250 guests in the new FutureLand information centre. From the

centre, everybody could clearly see the dredgers constantly sailing back and forth, as well as the most recent addition to the Netherlands already visible above the water. Besides the three ports

named after the princesses, another port was named after Princess Margriet. She already had her 'own' port in the Eemhaven area, but it was filled in seven years ago to create more space for container transshipment.

TRADITION

Rotterdam has been naming ports after members of the Royal

Family for many years. In the 1950's, ports in the Eemhaven area were named after Princesses Beatrix, Margriet and Christina. Later, two ports were given the names of the first two children born to Princess Beatrix: Prince Willem-Alexander and Prince (Johan) Friso. So now a third generation has been added. ■



FUTURELAND A POPULAR DAY OUT

SPECTACULAR VIEW AND INTERACTIVE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

In the first weeks after opening, FutureLand attracted more than 12,000 visitors. They are all very enthusiastic about this modern information centre for Maasvlakte 2, the project to expand the Rotterdam ports. Or as a visitor described it: "The view of the dredgers pumping up sand is spectacular, while inside you can find out everything you want to know about the construction of the new Maasvlakte. I'm very proud that the Netherlands is busy again with a major hydraulic engineering project. It's just great to see."

Every week, many hundreds of visitors make their way to the information centre close to Slag Dobbelssteen on the edge of the current Maasvlakte. "Many more people than we had expected," says public information officer Annette van Ham. "It's obviously becoming a very popular day out. The visitors come from far and wide and incidental passers-by



taking a walk along the shores of the Maasvlakte also drop in. And since June, German tourists have also been coming to have a look. We've already given guided tours to schoolchildren, students from technical universities, police officers and guests of the Port of Rotterdam Authority, Rijkswaterstaat and construction syndicate PUMA."

FUTUREFLIGHTEXPERIENCE

From the PanoramaDeck, visitors can see the construction of Maasvlakte 2 happening live, both with the naked eye and through telescopes. There are even special 'future telescopes' that allow visitors to see how Maasvlakte 2 will look in the future. And the Eten+Drinken café-restaurant also affords a beautiful view of the project. Inside, however, the emphasis is on discovering things for yourself. For example, visitors can take a virtual trip over the new Maasvlakte. Annette van Ham: "In the FutureFlightExperience, you fly over the new ports, as it were, and you can land and view the loading and unloading from up close, for example. But you can also operate the buttons of a digital scale model. Then you get

SLUFTERSTRAND STILL OPEN THIS SUMMER

This summer, there is an extra attraction for visitors to Slufterstrand: a view of the 'rainbowing' dredgers that are helping to build Maasvlakte 2. That's also the reason why some of the beach entrances are closed this year. Signs at the beach entrances show exactly what the recreational possibilities are for the 2009 summer season on Slufterstrand.

Now that the construction of Maasvlakte 2 is in full swing, some areas of the beach have become a building site that is closed to unauthorised persons. However, not all of the beach has been cordoned off. On Noordzeeboulevard, starting from the Slufter building, the first three sets of steps to the beach are closed off but the parking spaces can still be used. Visitors to the beach are welcome from the fourth sets of steps. Swimming is permitted in a southerly direction but not further than ten metres off

the coast. The lifeguard is on duty in the weekends and all through weeks 31 and 32. Surfers can access the beach using steps number six to the south. This is the only point of access for surfing. From here, (kite) surfers must surf in a southerly direction and make sure they remain outside the prohibited access area. Because of the changed situation on Slufterstrand, there is temporarily no naturist beach.

RECREATION 2010 - 2012

After the 2009 bathing season,



there will be no more recreational possibilities on Slufterstrand due to the work on Maasvlakte 2. Part of the new beach on Maasvlakte 2 is expected to open in 2012. When completed, this beach will be roughly twice as long as the current Slufterstrand.

A paved road and car parks will make it easy to reach by car and bicycle. Besides a beach for recreation and other activities, viewpoints are planned for the areas to the north and south of Maasvlakte 2. These will provide a spectacular view of the North Sea, the shipping traffic and the surrounding land. ■

a good impression of all the work to be done from now until 2033, when Maasvlakte 2 is due to be completed." FutureLand also has a modern water theatre, where images of the current Maasvlakte and the new port and industrial areas are projected onto a 'waterfall curtain'.

AGENDA

- From 3 July: exhibition by Hans Schabus, an artist who visits international ports in his small one-man yacht named 'Forlorn'.
- 9 July: opening of the interactive poetry exhibition 'Woorden in de Branding' (Words in the Waves).
- 14 August: opening of an exhibition by Paulien Oltheten, who has made a series of photographs and clips for Maasvlakte 2, in which objects are doubled or multiplied.

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Friday:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and Saturdays.
Every Sunday at 12 noon there is a free guided tour for individual visitors.
Admission is free, except for groups.
Groups should book in advance.

For more information:
www.futureland.nl ■

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD...

Dozens of seals have found a place in the sun on the freshly deposited sand of Maasvlakte 2. The curious swimmers take hardly any notice of the construction activities. All the work being done in the water is generating more food, which in turn is attracting a lot of fish. So you could say that the seals are having meals delivered right to their door. ■



NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE!

Will the construction of Maasvlakte 2 continue now that we're in an economic recession? That's a question I am regularly asked. My answer is: yes, especially now! From the start, we defined two important conditions for realizing the project: Maasvlakte 2 must stimulate the economy and must be economically viable, and the new port and industrial area must lead the way in sustainability. Both of these basic principles are in line with the vision of leading economists and environmental experts. These former opposites are now on the same wavelength as far as the sustainable development of the Netherlands is concerned. Which is exactly what we've been focusing on since the very first designs. Just look at our double objective: to improve the economy as well as the quality of life in Rijnmond. The building contractor is also using environmentally-friendly and energy-saving construction methods, and one of the criteria for selecting our first customers was their ability to do business sustainably.

GOOD PAPERS

Nobody can deny that we're in an economic downturn and there is a dip in container transport. But over the past years the growth in container transshipment has always been above the long-term forecast. With its execution time of thirty to forty years, Maasvlakte 2 has always had a long-term focus. So I'm not at all worried about the future. The huge demand for space for container transshipment will still be there, I'm sure of that. Over a number of years, shipping companies will be launching even larger container ships. Maasvlakte 2's location right on the North Sea, with a harbour depth of 20 metres, will

be ideal for rapidly processing these giants of the ocean. Our financial basis is solid. Our contracted customers recently confirmed they will continue investing in Maasvlakte 2. Added to that, we're holding talks with the industrial sector about setting up units on Maasvlakte 2.

A DIFFERENT MINDSET

The expansion of the Rotterdam port is still necessary despite the current economic downturn. You could call it anti-cyclic investment, but for us it's compatible with the ambition we've had for years. By continuing to invest in sustainability we're stimulating companies to adopt a different mindset. Countless studies have shown that this sustainability incentive leads to innovation, efficiency and environmentally-friendly solutions. And will the budgets shrink because of the crisis? Whatever happens, the Port of Rotterdam Authority will not economise on the construction of Maasvlakte 2. Because the ports must be ready by the time the economy starts growing again. Whoever continues to invest during a recession is the first to reap the benefits when things pick up again. ■



Ronald Paul
Director
Project
Organization
Maasvlakte 2



WORDS IN THE WAVES

Walking along the beach and phoning Jules, Carrie, Wilfried or another poet to hear what they have to say about the expansion of the Rotterdam port. That's the aim of the interactive poetry exhibition 'Words in the Waves'. From Thursday 9 July, ten poets with a great love for Rotterdam can be heard on the beach beside information centre FutureLand. They include Jules Deelder, Carrie, Wilfried de Jong, Rien Vroegindeweij and Daniel Dee, who were all asked to write a poem about the new land to be reclaimed and the Rotterdam port.

'POETRY POLES'

Next to the FutureLand outdoor café (at Slag Dobbelsteen) on the Maasvlakte there are ten 'poetry poles' displaying telephone numbers. From 9 July, passers-by can use their mobile phones to hear the poets reciting their work. The calls cost 15 cents per minute plus your normal mobile phone costs.

LIVE RECITALS

The festive opening of Words in the Waves will be held on



9 July at 4 p.m. in FutureLand, the Maasvlakte 2 information centre. Your host will be Wilfried de Jong. Some of the ten poets will also read their poems live. If you would like to attend, you can register at info@futureland.nl / www.futureland.nl. The first 50 people to register will be assured of a place and will also receive an exclusive booklet with the ten poems and special photographic portraits of the poets. ■

COLOFON

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