

The Netherlands: worldwide partner for water

The world is full of water challenges. Global collaboration is needed more than ever to find solutions. The Netherlands have much to offer. Not with quick fixes, but with sustainable, integrated tailor made solutions that take into account regions' needs and circumstances.

The Dutch focus on quality: true value for money.

The world is urbanising and more people are living in vulnerable cities in low lying deltas. Moreover, billions of people lack access to clean water and sanitary facilities. The Netherlands has extensive knowledge and technology to meet these challenges. Living in a densely populated delta below sea level, the Dutch were forced over centuries to develop extensive knowledge and experience in finding high quality, sustainable and affordable solutions to protect delta areas and enable delta life. Holland's position as a low lying delta with three major rivers makes it both the maritime and water management hub of Europe. The country's expertise in flood prevention, water quality and water and land use management is in demand worldwide, both in developing and developed countries.



Source: Rijkswaterstaat

Key aspects and strengths

- The Dutch have Europe's largest port capacity, operate Europe's largest inland shipping fleet and are globally leading manufacturers of complex special vessels and high-end yachts.
- The Netherlands distinguishes itself with a globally competitive group of suppliers to the offshore industry and with consultancies that have world-leading positions in maritime development and engineering, dredging, and spatial planning, in part due to experience gained through the Rotterdam and Amsterdam ports.

Websites

www.dutchwatersector.com - main international site for the Dutch water sector

www.maritimebyholland.nl - main site for the Dutch maritime sector

www.nwp.nl - Netherlands Water Partnership

www.government.nl/issues/water-management - Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment

- Enabling delta life, the Netherlands has a long term cooperation with a number of delta countries working together on a long term vision for integrated, climate resilient delta management. Their combined experience on water management and agricultural production is evident.
- The Dutch are renowned for their ability to build storm surge barriers and levees, to reclaim land and to develop entire coastal areas. A latest, innovative approach, called 'Building with Nature' uses the forces of nature for water management. An example is the Sand Engine, a natural way of distributing sand for coastal safety.
- The Dutch excel at engineering and maintenance of rivers.
- The Dutch have a few decades of experience with integrated water management and multi-disciplinary approach that balances social, economic and environmental needs. Water governance is a key element of this approach.
- A new-style Delta Plan will be implemented under the direction of the Delta Commissioner, a government commissioner who is empowered by the Delta Act.
- The Netherlands has developed widespread expertise and technology for sustainable ways to reuse water, to extract valuable nutrients from waste water, to produce energy from waste water and even to produce energy on the difference in salinity between sweet (river) water and salt (sea) water. Water in the Netherlands is collected, filtered and re-cycled with high levels of quality and service in an integrated cycle, with the focus on sustainability.
- Dutch companies are recognised specialists in the treatment of industrial waste water and several consultancies are globally respected for their water treatment expertise.
- The Netherlands has several of the world top institutes for delta technology agriculture, water technology and marine engineering. These institutes offer extensive international educational programs, from short courses to complete bachelor masters and PhD programs.

Facts & figures

- 60% of the Netherlands is susceptible to flooding, either from the sea or the rivers
- The Dutch Delta works is the largest flood defence scheme in the world (16,500 kilometres)
- The Netherlands have a unique legal water governance with a levy-system and multi-level government financing of world class water protection;
- The Port of Rotterdam is the fourth largest in the world.
- 99.9% of Dutch households have access to clean, entirely chlorine-free drinking water
- 99% of Dutch houses are connected to the sewer system.
- The Dutch maritime cluster comprises 12,000 companies, which employ 185,300 employees and generate turnover of € 26.3 billion. The cluster has a strong international focus: roughly 65% of the seagoing ships produced in The Netherlands are destined for export.
- Around 2,000 companies in the Dutch delta and water technology sector. They employ 80,000 people. The entire Dutch delta and water technology sector had an accumulated turnover of € 15.6 billion in 2011, of which € 7.4 billion was exported.
- Two Dutch companies command half the world's market for dredging.
- The Dutch invest heavily in innovation and R&D through public-private partnerships.

Sources: WEX (EIM), Netherlands Water Partnership, www.dutch-maritime-network.nl, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment