



PRESS RELEASE
Friday 2 October 2015, 07.00 am

WDPORT OF GHENT:

FIRST DEVELOPMENT OF 20,000 M² FOR DISTRILOG GROUP AT KLUIZENDOK IN THE PORT OF GHENT

Two years after WDP announced the launch of its multimodal WDPort of Ghent project, construction can now begin on a new tailor-made development of over 20,000 m² at the Kluizendok for the Distrilog Group. This port project will be completed in close collaboration with the Ghent Port Company.

WDP is kicking off its first project in the Port of Ghent

After the announcement¹ of this multimodal site – unique in Flanders – WDP and its partner, the Ghent Port Company, are pleased to announce the first project: the kick-off of the development on a new 20,000 m²-warehouse for the Distrilog Group, partner of WDP at various sites in its real estate portfolio. The project is slated for completion in the second quarter of 2016. The investment by WDP is estimated at some 10 million euros.



WDPort of Ghent is a true port project that fits into the predetermined strategy to support further expansion of the Port of Ghent and the Kluizendok. WDP has long recognized the economic and ecological importance of multimodal sites. This first project is crucial to further expansion of the WDPort of Ghent, in light of the increased importance of this site in recent months. WDP is optimistic: the kick-off of this first project will only further pique interest in this site.

¹ See press release dated 15 May 2013.



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The highly constructive partnership with the Ghent Port Company, the Municipality of Evergem and the City of Ghent attests to the added value of partners with shared interests in both the private and public sectors and has made a more concrete contribution to effective preparation of the construction works. Construction has been underway since last week.



The Port of Ghent is banking on logistics activity

The Ghent Port Company is very pleased with the kick-off of this development on the WDPort of Ghent by WDP. After all, the Port Company is seeking to attract several European (logistics) distribution centres. This investment will allow the Port of Ghent to reinforce its position in the logistics activities sector with added value.

With this site on the Kluizendok, WDP benefits from the unique features of the Port of Ghent as a multimodal port. Direct access to water heading out to sea and inland waterways, roadways (the E17 and E40) and railways offer efficient transport to all corners of Europe.

The WDPort of Ghent is located at the Kluizendok, next to the *Ovaal van Wippelgem* interchange on R4-West motorway. It is also a major investment in the territory of the Municipality of Evergem, which the port area partially spans.

Distrilog Group believes in the power of multimodality for logistics

In recent years, as a renowned logistics player, the Distrilog Group already expanded its impressive infrastructure by 315,000 m², for example with sites in Willebroek, Vilvoorde and Olen. Thanks to the strategic location, multimodal connection and the link to industry from East and West Flanders, this project is an ideal expansion of the current capacity of this logistics service provider. This site will be fitted with a hazardous goods zone and will also be the number-4 site in the group with a multimodal connection. To take full advantage of this opportunity, it will immediately serve as a *gateway* to the Distrilog Group's sustainable distribution network in the Benelux region. Initially, this new site will employ 35 people, with future growth potential for 50 jobs.

Bryan Beutels, Sales Director of the Distrilog Group: *"The WDPort of Ghent is a key step in our growth strategy. We see this first 20,000 m² as a stepping stone to expansion of our expertise to a broader geographical market. And an additional opportunity to further optimise the flow of goods for our clients."*



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“The kick-off of the WDPort of Ghent is a vital step in the further development of the Kluizendok,” adds Daan Schalck, CEO of the Ghent Port Company.

Mathias De Clercq, President of the Ghent Port Company: *“The Ghent Port Company is delighted with the creation of new jobs following this investment.”*

Joost Uwents, CEO of WDP: *“The WDPort of Ghent proves that by collaboration of public and private partners with similar interests, excellent results can be achieved. The fact that DistriLog – a long-time partner of WDP on many different sites – is participating in this first development, once again highlights the importance of long-term partnerships.”*





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Image gallery: www.wdp.be/relations/pressmedia

WDP Port of Ghent:

Images: https://www.flickr.com/photos/wdp_warehouses/sets/72157633572567815/

Animation: <http://vimeo.com/user2724738/wdpgent>

WDP develops and invests in logistics property (warehouses and offices). WDP's property portfolio amounts to more than 2 million m². This international portfolio of semi-industrial and logistics buildings is spread over more than 100 sites at prime logistics locations for storage and distribution in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Romania. More information about WDP can be found at www.wdp.be.

*WDP Comm. VA – B-REIT (Public Regulated Real Estate Company under Belgian law).
Company number 0417.199.869 (Brussels Trade Register)*

Distrilog Group is a logistics service provider specialising in the management of the entire supply chain under its own management with a clear focus on three strategic markets: do-it-yourself, FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) and automotive consumables. The family company today employs more than 1,100 employees in Belgium spread over eight logistics sites. You can find more information on www.distrilog.be.

The Ghent Port Company, nv van publiek recht ((limited liability company under public law), operates the port of Ghent. The Port Company sees to it that the necessary and adequate infrastructure is present in the port for a smooth handling of shipping and cargo traffic. It also ensures that a favourable social and economic climate is created for the companies that are active in the port or wish to establish themselves there. The Port Company has some 160 employees.

Key figures

Cargo traffic: 47.7 million tonnes of goods (maritime transshipment 25.9 million tonnes, inland waterway transport 21.8 million tonnes) transported by 17,549 vessels (2,893 sea-going vessels, 14,656 inland waterway vessels) (2014)

Employment in the port: 60,720 jobs (27,368 direct and 33,353 indirect jobs), in some 300 companies (Source: National Bank of Belgium, figures for 2013).

Added value: 6.7 billion euros (Source: National Bank of Belgium, figures for 2013).
