

THE NETHERLANDS

The smartest port in the world

by Alessandro Gandolfi





Rotterdam. A man at work in the simulation tank created by Aqua Lab, which has premises in the Rotterdam Makers District (RDM), an area of the port where private companies and startups work on research and innovation.



A GENUINE GATEWAY INTO EUROPE, TODAY ROTTERDAM IS FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

Throughout the 20th century Rotterdam was the world's busiest port. While that title moved to China in 2004, today there is another goal – to become the smartest seaport in the world.

This project entails digitalization, sustainable transport and a decisive step forward in the energy transition (concerning hydrogen), not to mention a fully-fledged CO2 abatement program in view of the fact that the port currently generates 14 million tonnes of it each year. This vast footprint is also a reflection

of the port's remarkable growth over the centuries, its success being partly due to its geographical position: Rotterdam's canals provide a gateway to an internal European market of 350 million people. The port of the future, however, can be summarized primarily in one word: innovation.

In recent years the site has become a vast campus where brilliant minds work developing visionary ideas: from floating wind turbines to new corrosion-resistant alloys, aquatic vacuum cleaners to the latest generation drones, which are set to be introduced in 2024.



Rotterdam. A portrait of King Willem-Alexander on display at the Maritime Museum.

Hook of Holland. A Dutch couple look through binoculars at big ships going by at the Port of Rotterdam.





Rotterdam. Young people at the Rotterdam Makers District (RDM), an area of the port where private companies and startups work on research and innovation.



Rotterdam. Containers at the Rotterdam World Gateway (RWG), a cutting-edge terminal developed recently at the western part of the port.



Rotterdam. Ronny Sijbrandse of the KRVE pilots a support vessel in the city port.



Rotterdam. Rotterdam Port Authority CEO Allard Castelein (left) and Commercial Vice President Matthijs van Doorn are about to begin a press conference.



Hook of Holland. Two friends sit in a car watching big ships go by at the Port of Rotterdam.

Rotterdam. Barges take advantage of inland waterways to transport goods into the country and onward into continental Europe.





Rotterdam. Young people at work in Rotterdam Makers District (RDM), an area of the port where private companies and startups work in research and innovation.



Hook of Holland. Two Dutch anglers fish in front of the Port of Rotterdam, which is known as a good spot for catching sea bass.



Rotterdam. Henry Smith from the KRVE pilots a support vessel in the city port.

Containers in the Rotterdam World Gateway (RWG), a cutting-edge terminal created recently in the western part of the port.





Rotterdam. A huge image of the port on the wall of a building in the city.



Hook of Holland. A family picnic on the beach in front of the Port of Rotterdam.



Rotterdam Port Authority. The reception desk for visitors.

Rotterdam. A sailor on board a
container ship at the port.



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Hook of Holland. A Dutch woman looks through binoculars at big ships going by at the Port of Rotterdam.



Rotterdam. VSTEP in the Rotterdam Makers District (RDM), an area of the port where private companies and startups work on research and innovation.



Rotterdam. Henry Smith of the KRVE pilots a support vessel in the city port.

Rotterdam. Youngsters take a break at the Rotterdam Makers District (RDM), an area of the port where private companies and startups work on research and innovation.





Rotterdam. A lorry in the western area of the port.



Rotterdam. A boatman from the KRVE on a support vessel in the city port.



Rotterdam. A tunnel on the city's underground network. One Metro line is dedicated to Pieter Caland, the engineer who came up with the idea for the Nieuwe Waterweg canal that enabled the port to expand all the way to the sea.



Rotterdam. An automated, self-driving container transporter at the Rotterdam World Gateway (RWG), a cutting-edge area developed recently in the western part of the port.



Portraits of people who have some connection with the Port of Rotterdam on display at the Maritime Museum.

