
WELCOME TO
ROTTERDAM.
MARITIME
CAPITAL
OF EUROPE.

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BEST CONNECTED GATEWAY TO EUROPE.



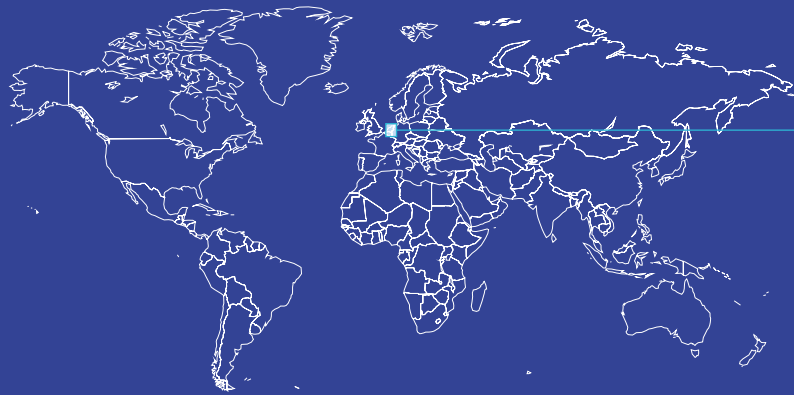
Rotterdam has never been held back by lack of ambition and has always attracted pioneers, innovators and industry leaders. Rotterdam embodies more than 700 years successful experience in international trade and shipping. Through the years, it has developed into one of the leading maritime capitals of the world.

Rotterdam region's maritime ecosystem includes one of the most complete and competitive maritime and offshore clusters in the world.

As the home of Europe's largest port and numerous leading maritime services providers and users, Rotterdam and its region offer ideal conditions for maritime and offshore business to start, grow and scale.

Rotterdam boasts **the world's best port infrastructure**, according to the World Economic Forum in 'The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017'. This position is mainly due to its modern facilities, the extensive hinterland network and the major investment projects in Rotterdam and region.

Rotterdam has a strategic location, next to the open sea on a major river delta, with high quality links to its hinterland Germany and beyond. This has made Rotterdam the largest port in Europe; the gateway to Europe and an important logistics hub for global trade. Of all ports, Rotterdam has by far the most attractive location, in relation to the sea as well as the massive European market of over **500 million consumers. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**, every conceivable form of logistics service is available. Furthermore, Rotterdam is an industrial centre of global stature. An extensive intermodal network of rail, inland shipping, road, short sea and pipelines provides a wide selection of connections to the rest of Europe.



- Added value in the maritime industry 20 billion euro annually
- Number of people employed 185,000
- Number of maritime companies 4,375



Rotterdam Maritime Capital, this region, stretching from Hoek van Holland to Drecht Cities and Werkendam, hosts one of the most diversified maritime clusters in the world.

STRONGHOLD FOR OFFSHORE AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY



PHOTO: FEEK VAN ARKEL / DE BEELDINGE.

Rotterdam has a rich history in shipping and the shipbuilding industry. It is renowned worldwide for engineering, manufacturing, repair and maintenance of specialised ships. Leading shipbuilders such as Damen Shipyards Group, Royal IHC, Heerema Fabrication Group and Fokker Technologies as well as superyacht builder Oceanco are all located in the Rotterdam region. **The cluster is leading in development of new technologies towards cleaner and safer ships.** Moreover, the shipyards in the maritime cluster are complemented by a complete range of maritime suppliers. These maritime suppliers are innovative SMEs that deliver a range of products from electro technical and mechanical engineering systems and components to coatings and interior outfitting. Large maritime suppliers in the Rotterdam region include Alewijnse, RH Marine & Offshore, Bakker Sliedrecht, Wärtsilä and Croonwouter&dros.

Rotterdam is home to Europe's largest fleet of floating cranes and sheerlegs. Shipyards can accommodate all types of offshore platforms. The Rotterdam offshore sector is a global leader in development and manufacturing of innovative heavy lift and transport vessels as well as drilling and pipelines for deriving oil and gas at sea. **These companies are successful in developing technologies for the oil and gas sector, the offshore wind energy sector and deep sea mining.** Maasvlakte II offers space for offshore wind prototyping and testing facilities. Royal IHC leads the EU co-financed Blue Mining project that searches for breakthrough solutions for the extraction and processing of minerals in an extreme environment. More leading offshore companies located in the Rotterdam region include Van Oord, Boskalis, Fugro, GustoMSC, Hollandia, Sif Group and Huisman.

WORLD CLASS MARITIME BUSINESS SERVICES.



PHOTO: GERHARD VAN ROON / ROTTERDAMBRANDINGTOEKIET.

Rotterdam has a strong concentration of companies in the maritime business services industry. This involves a wide range of companies like banks, insurance companies, insurance brokers, lawyers, accountants, tax consultants, damage experts and other related businesses. **All services that are needed to conduct trade or to build, operate and manage a ship are available in the city.** The cluster exists of high quality service providers and institutions that foster knowledge and innovation within the cluster. Examples of these institutions are the VNAB (the Dutch association for insurance brokers), the RMSC (the community for maritime business services in Rotterdam) and the Rotterdam Maritime Board (C-level advisory board for the regional maritime industry).

One of the strong points of the maritime cluster is legal services related to maritime casualty, commercial shipping activities and shipbuilding. The Maritime Chamber of the Rotterdam District Court is specialised in maritime law, transport law and international sale of goods. Its expertise is recognized within the industry as well as its speed and cost-effectiveness. Rotterdam-based judges, arbitrators, lawyers and technical experts are internationally renowned for their hands-on attitude and pro-active and practical advices that are **available 24-hours a day.** The Maritime Chamber offers the option to conduct all litigation in the English language. In some cases, shipping disputes are resolved through arbitration or mediation, and Rotterdam is an ideal location for national and international dispute resolution proceedings.

GLOBAL COMMODITY HUB.



PHOTO: FREEK VAN ARKEL / DE BEELDINGE.

Rotterdam traditionally has a strong position in commodity trading as part of a major trading nation. It is a global hub for commodity trading with a particular focus on agriculture trading, such as corn, grains, soybean and oilseeds. Rotterdam is a major price reference point and home to all the world major trading groups and financiers, making it **the most important commodity trading hub in the EU.**

The trading activities are often linked with the port and its hinterland connections. Moreover, in Rotterdam an extensive network of other players along the whole commodity value chain exists. Logistics services and storage facilities, financing, contracting and other ancillary services create a unique concentration of skills which is hard to imitate and essential for a high quality trading hub. Rotterdam is an effective and neutral marketplace for traders and supporting professionals to exchange information and structure deals.

MARITIME INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM.



PHOTO: RAMIAB.

Rotterdam's foremost quality is a strong drive to innovate and blaze new trails. This creates a fertile breeding ground for a thriving maritime and offshore industry. The Rotterdam region includes a diverse innovation ecosystem for initiating, attracting and realising new developments, for example in the field of alternative fuels, autonomous ships, blockchain technology and digitization of the industry. The ecosystem consists of incubators, accelerators, fieldlabs and testing facilities with a strong focus on the challenges of the industry.

To foster innovation in the maritime industry and complement the ecosystem, PortXL - World Port Accelerator was launched in 2015. PortXL is the only start-up accelerator programme that specifically focuses on port-related activities. In this programme, **over 180 mentors and highly involved partners offer start-ups an opportunity to raise their technologies to the next level.** PortXL scouts for high-potential port-related start-ups all over the world. The programme focuses on enterprises that offer disruptive, scalable business propositions that can be successfully launched within one year.

PULSING HEART OF A GLOBAL ENERGY CLUSTER.

PHOTO: WORCFLOW / ROTTERDAMBRANDINGTOOLKIT



The port of Rotterdam is one of the world's most important hubs for cargo flows. Almost half of that cargo consists of energy. **Rotterdam Energy Port is the North-West European hub for the arrival, production and distribution of energy streams.** Originally conventional but quickly transforming to a more and more sustainable mix, ensuring a reduced carbon footprint.

Rotterdam is committed to combating climate change and wants to play an important role in the global energy transition. The reduction of CO2 emissions and efficient use of raw and residual materials are important tasks for the Port of Rotterdam Authority. The Port of Rotterdam Authority wants to develop the port area in such a way that it becomes a flagship region for shaping the energy transition.

ROTTERDAM'S UNIQUE PROPOSITION.

Rotterdam offers a unique blend of competitive strengths and this makes Rotterdam the city of your choice when it comes to living, working, investing, studying and visiting.

1. Most complete maritime cluster in Europe: from shipbuilding and offshore to business services, logistics and trading.
2. 500 million European consumers in reach within 24 hours.
3. Best port infrastructure in the world (2017-2018, World Economic Forum).
4. Highly innovative climate keeps Rotterdam ahead of the competition.
5. Its 'make it happen' mentality makes the city a stepping stone for entrepreneurs realizing their vision.
6. Unique triple helix collaboration between companies, schools and government in innovation, education and sector development.
7. Home to top quality maritime research institutions, schools and universities and boasts a talented and highly-skilled workforce.
8. Excellent high-speed digital connectivity for international contact and global operational innovations.
9. Vibrant, youthful international city with year-round markets, shopping, festivals and culture.
10. Exceptionally affordable spaces for living, office and operations, always nearby.

Contact us:

E. maritime@rotterdam.nl

W. www.rotterdammaritimecapital.com

Colophon

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OUR PARTNERS.

ROTTERDAM. MAKE IT HAPPEN.



City of Rotterdam

**ROTTERDAM
PARTNERS**



**Port of
Rotterdam**



**Rotterdam
Port
Promotion
Council**



Drecht Cities

Deal



**Innovation
Quarter**



Drechtsteden