

# Allard Castelein, CEO of the Port of Rotterdam Authority speech during the APM Terminals Maasvlakte II Rotterdam opening ceremony, 24 April 2015.

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Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is almost six years to the day – 28 April 2009 – that we celebrated the start of construction on Maasvlakte 2, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix. This event took place on the edge of the first Maasvlakte. We had just started the reclamation activities, and as you looked out to sea, you could just make out a tiny hump of sand, some 3 kilometres off shore. Over the past six years, many people have worked very hard to create Maasvlakte 2, and to add another 2000 ha of land to the Kingdom of the Netherlands without fighting, and to realise a world class, extremely modern container terminal at this site. An accomplishment of which we all can be exceptionally proud.

In the Dutch language quite a few expressions have a maritime context. One example is *'in zee gaan met iemand'*: 'to go to sea with someone'. We all know this means that you've decided to join forces; to team up; to work together. Because you share the same goal, and because you trust one another. If there's one expression that is particularly appropriate for APM Terminals and the Port of Rotterdam, it's that we met elkaar in zee zijn gegaan, we have gone to sea with each other.

APM Terminals and the Port of Rotterdam already signed the contract for this terminal as early as June 2006: nine years ago. The Maersk Group is known the world over for its vision and leadership. Pushing the boundaries, both in container shipping and as a terminal operator. And Maersk's decision to build a terminal on a new piece of land that only existed on the drawing board is an clear example of this. In it also lies the explanation for the successful partnership between APM Terminals and the Port of Rotterdam. We both strive to innovate in our sectors, stay at the forefront of developments, to be industry and market leaders. Indeed, it is precisely why the Port of Rotterdam has invested more than one-and-a-half billion euro in the construction of this new port area in the North Sea. This has allowed us to expand our existing port complex by 20 percent, and to create space for companies to grow in Rotterdam in the decades ahead.

APM Terminals' new, state-of-the-art facility is the first to start operations at Maasvlakte 2. That in itself is a milestone. The terminal will play an important role for the Maersk Group, for Rotterdam and for the Netherlands as a whole. This terminal – and in the near future, the Rotterdam World Gateway terminal on the opposite side of Prinses Amaliahaven – will deliver sustainable growth in Rotterdam's container throughput volumes in the years ahead. It will also create new jobs for people in the port, and work for countless suppliers and service providers.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed a tremendous growth in size of the container ships. Maersk Lines has taken the lead in this development. This new generation of ships, with a capacity of more than 18,000 TEU, require ports that can effortlessly accommodate vessels of this size, as well as terminals where they can efficiently load and unload their cargo. This terminal at Maasvlakte 2 has been specifically designed to handle this next generation of container ships. And it will enable APM Terminals, its customers and the port of Rotterdam to further strengthen their competitive proposition. I am confident that in the years ahead, Rotterdam will be increasing its market share in the container handling sector.

Looking around, I am very happy that nine years ago, APM Terminals and the Port of Rotterdam decided to 'go to sea together'. I would like to sincerely congratulate APM Terminals with the new

terminal, you have added another world class facility to our Port. And of course, I am honoured and delighted that His Majesty the King is here today.

Thank you.

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