



## PRESS RELEASE

### Contaminated plant site in Ghent city centre becomes attractive residential area

*GHENT 3 November 2014 - An old, contaminated site disappears from Ghent city centre (see picture) to make way for an attractive living environment. A textbook example of redeveloping a 'brownfield': solving an environmental problem and simultaneously embellishing the city centre. DEC, DEME's environmental subsidiary, will take care of remediation in close collaboration with project developer Immotrion.*

The former 'Elektrion' plant at the Nieuwewandeling has been a thorn in the side of many Ghent residents for quite some time. The buildings are heavily deteriorated and the soil is highly contaminated as a result of the lubrication oils production that took place on the site from 1926 to 2014. The soil and groundwater is polluted, mainly with mineral oils.

The thorough remediation of the site (1.1 ha) creates a win-win situation for the city (transformation into an urban destination) and the environment (cleaning up the contamination).

To make an accurate estimate of the remediation costs, Immotrion involved DEC in the project right from the start. 'DEME Environmental Contractors' (DEC) is the environmental subsidiary of the hydraulic engineering and environmental group DEME and specialises in brownfield development. In Ghent DEC was previously involved in the remediation of the 60 ha business terrain Fasiver in Zwijnaarde.

DEC has recently made a start with the works, which include soil and groundwater remediation, asbestos removal, cleaning the above- and underground tanks, and demolishing the former production plant and halls. The expert engineering agency ABO-group has carried out an exploratory and descriptive soil survey, as well as an inventory of the asbestos and demolishing works.

In view of the location of the site at the centre of Ghent, the works are carried out with utmost care. Once the remediation is done, Immotrion will turn the site at the Nieuwewandeling into an attractive living area.

**About DEC**

*DEME Environmental Contractors (DEC) was founded in 2000, when its parent company DEME consolidated a series of environmental companies that had been set up during the 1980s. DEC has seen rapid growth, both in Belgium and abroad, completing important projects in, for instance, London (remediation of the London Olympics site), the port of Antwerp (innovative 'Amoras' project for sludge recycling), Dublin and Chesterfield (remediation of the former gasworks sites), and in Sweden (remediation of a fjord).*

**About DEME**

*The Belgian dredging, hydraulic engineering and environmental group DEME has earned itself a prominent position on the world market in a few highly specialist and complex hydraulic disciplines. Having its core business in dredging operations and land reclamation, the group diversified into hydraulic projects at sea, services to oil and gas companies, the installation of offshore wind farms, environmental activities such as soil remediation and sediment recycling, and revalidation of brownfields and wreck clearance. Its multi-disciplinary know-how and experience, project synergies and integrated business structure allowed DEME to grow into a global solutions provider. The Group owns one of the most modern, high-tech and versatile fleets for dredging and hydraulic engineering activities. DEME employs 4,500 people. In 2013 the group realised a turnover of EUR 2.53 billion.*

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