



**DEME**

Dredging, Environmental  
& Marine Engineering

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management and Ballast Nedam, DEME and Macquarie Capital sign contract on A24 Blankenburgverbinding**

**Today the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) and BAAK are signing the contract for the A24 Blankenburgverbinding. The Blankenburgverbinding is a key infrastructure project, improving the roads and accessibility of the port of Rotterdam and the wider Rotterdam region, contributing to economic growth. The financial close is expected to take place in 2018. Opening of the Blankenburgverbinding is planned between 2022 and the end of 2024.**

Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management van Nieuwenhuizen said: "This is a major step towards the start of the construction of the Blankenburgverbinding. This completely new road towards the port of Rotterdam will ensure a better traffic flow in this economically important region."

On behalf of the BAAK Blankenburg-Verbinding consortium, Martijn Klinkhamer, member of the BAAK board of directors: "We are very proud to have reached this important step in the Blankenburg project. We have built our consortium with leading engineering contractors, tunnelling and infrastructure funding specialists. We look forward to working closely with Rijkswaterstaat and the stakeholders and to contribute to the future of one of the most important economic regions of our country. I have great confidence that BAAK will ensure that the traffic flow and the transport infrastructure around Rotterdam will improve."

The project has a total nominal value of approximately 1 billion euro and consists of the design and construction of the A24 Blankenburgverbinding, including a 20-year management and maintenance period after the new infrastructure becomes available. The equity partners in the project are Macquarie Capital for 70 per cent, and Ballast Nedam Concessies and DEME Concessions Infrastructure for 15 per cent each. The actual construction will be carried out by a consortium consisting of Ballast Nedam Infra, and the DEME companies DIMCO and Dredging International. In addition Macquarie Capital is acting as sole financial advisor to the BAAK consortium.

The new 4 km A24 motorway including the Blankenburg Tunnel will connect the A20 and the A15 motorways being part of Rotterdam's main infrastructure, improving accessibility and reducing congestion to one of the Netherlands' most economically significant regions. The project includes the construction of an immersed tunnel under 'Het Scheur' (nearby the Nieuwe-Waterweg), a land tunnel, two junctions (of the A24 to the A20 and the A15) and the widening of the A20 between the A24 and the Kethelplein.

The project plays an important role in the execution of the 2009 Masterplan Rotterdam Vooruit (2009) which governs the development of the Rotterdam region from 2020-2040. Construction is expected to commence in August 2018 and completed between 2022 and 2024.

### **About DEME**

The Belgian dredging, environmental and marine engineering group DEME is an international market leader for complex marine engineering works.

Building on more than 140 years of experience and know-how, DEME has organically moved into several related sectors, such as the financing of marine engineering and environmental projects, executing complex EPC related marine engineering projects including civil engineering works, the development and construction of renewable energy projects, providing services for the oil, gas and energy sector, the decontaminating and recycling of polluted soils and silts, the harvesting of marine resources, etc.

Thanks to an integrated company structure, DEME strongly emerges as a 'global solutions provider' which offers its clients overall solutions. DEME has the most modern, high-tech and versatile fleet.

DEME Group has 4,900 employees worldwide and achieved a turnover of 1.97 billion euros in 2016.

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