

SMART LOGISTICS

Fiercely precise

SMART LOGISTICS GETS ROLLING IN FLANDERS

In times of global competition and rapid technological development, Flanders is the smart choice for creating added value in logistics. Its strategic location coupled with operational excellence and its people's problem-solving attitude have enabled the northern region of Belgium to develop into a world-leading logistics hub.

Pragmatic and multimodal

Flanders is situated at the economic heart of the EU: 60% of Europe's purchasing power can be found within a radius of 750 km around Brussels, the capital of both Belgium and Flanders and – politically speaking – of the EU. Flanders' territory itself is very compact: Europe's economic superpowers are just a border away. In other words, people as well as goods can reach their destinations quickly and cost efficiently: within 24 hours for the largest European markets.

With its multimodal transport infrastructure, Flanders makes the most of this strategic location. Brussels Airport and the seaports of Ostend, Zeebrugge, Ghent and Antwerp – the second largest port in Europe – receive the largest container ships in the world and form the ideal gateway to the European hinterland. From there, a tight, integrated network of railways, motorways and inland waterways unfolds.

Bridge-building integrator

But smart logistics goes beyond a finely meshed and efficient distribution network. The real added value lies in the

Did you know?

Flanders' road, railroad and waterway networks are among the world's highest ranking in terms of density per square kilometer. (Source: IMD)

human factor: problem-solving, critical thinking, a pragmatic attitude and readiness to think together. In this sense, Flanders is a region of bridge builders – a tendency that continues to bear fruit. The region's logistics sector is part of an ecosystem that represents the entire value chain. In fact, Flanders is embedded in the largest integrated European industrial cluster and one of the top chemical clusters in the world.

To perpetuate and strengthen this role of integrator, Flanders' distribution sector, knowledge institutions and industry partners are united in clusters (such as VIL) that actively share expertise and exchange experiences. Flanders' top talent is also constantly looking for ways to prepare infrastructure and logistics flows for the future, investigating – among other projects – how complex flows can be automated, secured and made more sustainable.

In doing so, experts and industry players from Flanders integrate the latest technologies in the fields of tracing, robotics, drones, artificial intelligence and more. In doing this, they apply the principles of the circular economy and develop end-to-end solutions tailored to various niches and target groups. The ultimate goal? To help companies excel even more in terms of cost efficiency, productivity and convenience in order to meet the demands of

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their increasingly demanding customer.

Flanders breathes logistics: fiercely precise

In short, setting up business in Flanders means becoming part of an integrated ecosystem, where knowledge, industry and infrastructure come together with high precision to make your international business, distribution and transport activities run like clockwork.



Flanders
State of
the Art