

BIS Industrial Services benefits from consolidation in Roosendaal

An interview with mr. Niko van Ruitenburg, director of BIS Industrial Services by Marcel te Lindert

Whether it is a chemical plant, oil refinery or steelworks: if they need any scaffolding, they call BIS Industrial Services. BIS provides scaffolding for large industrial sites mainly near Rotterdam, Moerdijk and Antwerp. Industrial insulation, rope access, coating, heat tracing, asbestos removal, fire protection and noise control are also offered on a multidisciplinary basis. BIS is part of Bilfinger Berger AG, a German listed construction company and employs around 2400 people in the Benelux region.

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Centralization of the operation



Niko van Ruitenburg

At the end of 2009 the idea grew that centralization could be beneficial. "At all our sites construction materials are stored outside. Moving to one central location could lead to lower inventories", says Van Ruitenburg, director of BIS Industrial Services. He adds: "Furthermore we should be able to schedule our employees more efficiently and make better use of our machines for prefabricating the insulation parts. And centralization makes it possible to put in place more common and clear procedures that lead to higher quality." BIS asked Groenewout for assistance.

Groenewout explored the opportunities for centralization and developed a business case. The consultants analyzed transports and turnovers for the five locations that were in scope. The outcome was positive. "Centralization would lead to a reduction of 10 percent in labour costs", says Van Ruitenburg. "This is accompanied by more transport, but that is compensated entirely with the increase in efficiency on our central site. Actually most of the transport time is used for loading and unloading trucks. That doesn't change."

The statistical analysis by Groenewout pointed out that Roosendaal was the optimal location from distribution point of view. The other option was Moerdijk. Both possible locations were indicated by REWIN-West Brabant. BIS opted for Roosendaal. But there were also some other arguments, remarks Van Ruitenburg. "The site in Moerdijk was divided by a road. Besides that, there was no room for expansion."

Indoor workshops and outdoor storage

After this decision was made, almost a year ago, BIS wanted Groenewout also to be involved in the next step: the design, engineering and project management for the new central site in Roosendaal. One month ago BIS received the building permit. The building company will start as soon as possible with the earthworks. At the end of this year the building has to be finished. In the first week of 2012 BIS would like to start working in Roosendaal.

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The new building will have a ground floor of 6.500 square meters. A part of that building, around 1.000 square meters, will have two levels. This is also the part where the offices, locker rooms, canteen and instruction area are situated, 800 square meters in total. The rest of the building will be used for prefabrication the insulation parts and for repairing and sorting the scaffolding construction materials. Also consumables like work wear, helmets, tools and even coffee and tea will be stored here. The building stands on a field of approximately 32.000 square meters. In front of the building there will be some 80 parking places, enough for the 100 people that will work in Roosendaal. The largest part however is used for the outdoor storage of scaffolding construction materials: 20.000 square meters. Groenewout and BIS are still working on a lay-out for this area. "We focused on the building first, that was the most important part of this project", Van Ruitenburch says.

The sections and aisles of the outdoor storage will be planned in such a way that movements of forklifts will be minimized. Fastmovers for instance will be stored as close as possible to the loading and unloading area. Van Ruitenburch: "We want to have fixed procedures for this part of the operation but still want to remain flexible."

Investment of 12 million euros

Van Ruitenburch is very pleased with the cooperation of Groenewout. "We don't have the expertise and surely not the time to run a project like this on our own. It is obvious that Groenewout has done many projects like this before."

Groenewout is responsible for the final design and program of requirements, including the exterior and interior design, the infrastructure, the fire engineering design and the technical installations like sanitary, heating and electrical systems. Groenewout was also in charge of getting the building permit and in tendering and contracting of suppliers.

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Groenewout will manage the project until the formal handover at the end of this year. But of course BIS is still involved. "We did the negotiations with the suppliers and contractors together with Groenewout and we both also attend the construction meetings. This is a very important project for us. We have to watch this closely", says Van Ruitenburg.

The complete project requires an investment of almost 12 million euros. Van Ruitenburg knows it is worth it. "The amount of savings every year is significant."

About BIS Industrial services

Based on the multidisciplinary approach or the provision of individual services: industrial insulation, scaffolding, rope access, coating, heat tracing, asbestos removal, fire protection and noise control. At BIS Industrial Services it's all about integrity, reliability, flexibility and a customer-driven and service-oriented approach. Solutions for Industrial Services involve BIS Industrial Services clearly adding value to its clients' end-products. More information: <http://www.bis-is.com>

By Marcel te Lindert

Marcel te Lindert is a journalist with over twelve years of experience in logistics. He was editor-in-chief of the Dutch magazines Transport+Opslag and Logistiek. Today he works freelance for magazines like Supply Chain Magazine, Supply Chain Solutions, Nieuwsblad Transport and Logistiek Totaal

More information

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