

Groenewout provides project support for new DSV Solutions mega distribution centre in Venlo

An interview with Mark Steegh, project manager for DSV Solutions by Tjaart Theron

DSV Solutions – a division of DSV, the global supplier of transport and logistics services - supplies logistics services from their warehousing and distribution centres in the Netherlands. A few years ago, DSV Solutions (previously DFDS Transport and Frans Maas) decided to combine a number of their distribution centres in a newly constructed warehouse on 22 hectares of land acquired at Trade Port North in Venlo. Groenewout was selected to provide project support for the construction, security and certification of the project.

One of the largest Distribution Centres in the Netherlands



Mark Steegh

'This has been quite a huge project', says Mark Steegh, who was responsible for managing the project on behalf of DSV Solutions. 'By the time it was completed in June this year, we had a total of 82,000 square meters, which is the equivalent of 22 football fields! The building consists of 61,886 square meters of warehouse space, 13,250 square meters mezzanine, 3,913 square meters of production area for Value Added Logistics (VAL) and 2,500 square meters of office space. This means this is one of the largest distribution centres in the Netherlands!'

An ideal location

Steegh: 'It is only two hours away from Rotterdam Harbour and only a kilometre from the A67 and A73 motorways'. According to him, construction started in 2007 and the first phase was completed in April 2008. The latest phase was completed in June 2008. He continues: 'The new Distribution Centre really uses the latest technology, which means we can deliver services of the highest quality. And the logistics infrastructure available means that Venlo is an ideal location. During the opening in June this year, a helicopter was provided to enable the VIPs and other guests to inspect the centre from the air. In this way, one gets a good idea of its immense size', Steegh says.

Scope for growth

Steegh explains that the new distribution centre is a response to the need for additional warehousing space. 'With the addition of two extra units we are now able to facilitate the growing needs of our existing clients, such as Océ and Lexmark, and it is possible to provide services to new clients. This was necessary to accommodate the increasing demand for storage space by our clients and the desire of DSV - after the take-over of Frans Maas - to combine the three DCs in Venlo en Horst into a single building. This has obvious benefits of scale and synergy and offers growth potential. In addition, the square construction should offer significant benefits with regard to cost, internal logistics and the safety of the personnel.

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' Steegh says the complex also includes 20,000 square meters of logistics area, which was developed speculatively on the same industrial area for possible future expansion of DSV or for another party.



The contribution by Groenewout

'We were actually at quite an advanced stage in the process when we realized we did not have sufficient capacity within the company to properly execute the project', Mark Steegh explains. 'Fortunately, I knew Groenewout from my previous employer and had a very positive experience when we worked with them in the past. I therefore knew that they had exactly the knowledge and expertise that we were looking for'. He continues: 'We needed assistance across a broad spectrum and in many areas.' Steegh outlines the areas in which Groenewout provided services: 'We needed advice about and supervision of the construction process. We also asked Groenewout to handle the tendering process for various services by suppliers. They monitored the progress, supervised deliveries and kept a check on additional costs'. Says Steegh with emphasis: The important thing to me was that Groenewout was also able to take care of all the technical aspects and hardware related to installations such as the security, the heating, electricity and cabling'.

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Security and certification

Steegh: 'You can imagine how important security is in an enormous warehouse such as this. Groenewout made sure we comply with the requirements for the highest rating of the TAPA certification. They handled this perfectly. From the arrangement of an internal Security Workshop and the design of the security plans to the supervision of the suppliers during installation. From the tendering process for the security services to the design of security procedures and the arrangements for security awareness training amongst our staff'.

Pleasant working relationship

'Finally', says Steegh, 'Groenewout made sure we that we could apply for TAPA certification. Together with the Security Manager from DSV Solutions Schiphol, we recently succeeded in acquiring the TAPA-A certificate for our new building with a 91,67% scoring rate. Groenewout was really involved from the moment when the construction started until the final delivery of the project.' Steegh leaves no doubt about the high quality of the services provided by Groenewout and the pleasure he had in working with them. Steegh: 'Working with Groenewout went very well. They were very flexible, were able to provide all the expertise we needed. They did an enormous amount of work and delivered very quickly. And because I had worked with them before I knew we would have a pleasant relationship as well. They can be very business-like when needed, but also relaxed when the opportunity arises'.

By Tjaart Theron

Tjaart Theron was born in South Africa and has lived in the Netherlands since 1985. He completed a Masters in Economics at the Institute of Social Sciences in The Hague. He has worked as English native speaker copywriter for large international companies.

More information

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