

# SGS QUALITY ASSURANCE KEY TO CONSTRUCTION OF BELGIAN SEA LOCK

ISSUED – JULY 2012

On 12 July 2012, SGS INTRON was awarded a contract by Deurganckdoksluis NV to provide quality assurance for the construction of lock doors and bridges for a new sea lock at the port of Antwerp between the dock and the Waasland canal.

### SGS INTRON QUALITY ASSURANCE SERVICES IN FLANDERS

Deurganckdoksluis NV, established by Vlaamse Havens NV together with the Antwerp Port Authority contracted SGS INTRON along with its partner SBE to conduct the necessary quality assurance services for the Port of Antwerp sea lock project. The five-year agreement entrusts SGS INTRON, in cooperation with a technical team of the Flemish government, to develop a tailored quality assurance system to include a

procedures manual and protocols for material and construction inspections of foreign-produced components.

### SGS INTRON ASSISTING IN PORT OF ANTWERP DEVELOPMENT

The project, which began in October of 2011, is currently the largest infrastructure works in Flanders. Although the new lock is to have the same 500 metre long and 68 metres wide dimensions as the Berendrecht lock, the deeper draught will make it the largest sea lock in the world.

Upon completion, the Port of Antwerp Waasland development project will consist of:

- 740,000 cubic metres of concrete
- 22,000 tons of structural steel
- 55,000 tons of reinforcement steel
- 4 lock gates
- 4 bridges

This 53-month undertaking of paramount proportion will ensure that Waasland Port, the dock area of the left bank of the Scheldt, is built to successfully play a major role in the overall development of the Port of Antwerp.

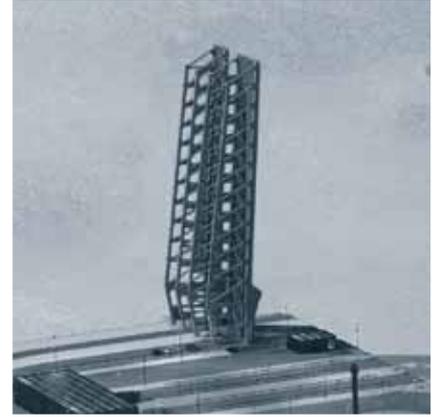
Construction of the new lock is necessary to improve maritime access to the economic hub of the Port of Antwerp and to further develop efficient, multimodal and sustainable goods transport, benefiting not only the Port of Antwerp and Flanders, but also the whole of Europe.

Furthermore, the Port of Antwerp is a major hub of the new EU core network of transport, the backbone of the Trans-European Network of Transport (TEN-T). The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission clearly recognise the importance of TEN-T in promoting sustainable transport, job creation, economic growth and cohesive unity within the European Union.

### SGS INTRON LOCKED-IN AS THE ONLY CHOICE IN BELGIUM

Because the majority of steel fabrication for this particular project is being conducted in Asia, the Flemish Government searched for an independent partner to manage the quality assurance and manufacturing inspections of foreign-produced components in order to verify compliance with current Flemish and European standards and regulations particularly EN 1090-1 and EN 1090-2.





It was of top priority that quality and reliability of components and equipment were ensured in the earliest of stages. After careful and thoughtful examination of the world's leading providers, Flemish officials were extremely impressed with the superior expertise and vast experience of SGS INTRON as well as recent SGS involvement in the inspection of the Panama Canal lock gates.

In addition, the SGS global network and ability to deploy resources around the world made it perfectly clear to Belgian authorities that SGS was the only partner capable of assisting in the successful completion of this distinguished project. Officials also recognised the importance of autonomous SGS inspection, verification, testing and certification in building confidence and protecting investment.

### **SGS INTRON EXPERT QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The Port of Antwerp Waasland development project demands that SGS INTRON quality assurance experts be solely responsible for:

- producing the quality assurance procedures manual
- determining and delivering staff training
- overseeing quality assurance inspections in various countries
- conducting audits

Supplemental to road-mapping the project with a quality assurance procedures manual and training programmes, on-site SGS inspectors are performing quality control examinations and audits of all manufactured components to be included in the construction of the lock gates and bridges.

With this comprehensive strategy, SGS INTRON quality assurance ensures that project materials, products, machinery, equipment and industrial facilities are manufactured and maintained compliant with all defined and mandatory requirements, contractual specifications and quality standards. SGS INTRON quality assurance services:

- guarantee constructed project facilities are safe and reliable
- provide Belgian officials the certainty that structures, components, materials and systems meet prescribed standards in order to perform satisfactorily throughout the duration of implementation
- substantially increase the value of project assets

SGS INTRON is particularly proud of having accepted this essential role in the development of the Port of Antwerp to positively impact the Belgian and European economies.

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