

Newsletter Realisation of Maasvlakte-Zuid railway yard

This newsletter is a publication by the core team of the project Maasvlakte-Zuid railway yard (EMZ) bundle 1. In this newsletter, we keep you updated on the developments within the project and the surrounding area. This newsletter is published quarterly.

Update Swietelsky activities

Swietelsky is currently in the midst of preparatory work for the Maasvlakte-Zuid railway yard (EMZ) project. The construction of the site yard and the storage yard has now been completed. Concrete slabs have been placed on the location of the site yard, on which the site office and storage sheds will be placed.



Site facilities under construction

Preparing the project site

Swietelsky is carrying out initial preparatory work on the project site, including removal of the living layer (soil layer in which plants grow) and draining the watercourses.



Construction of toad pools

Recently, Swietelsky installed toad fencing around the work site. Work has also begun to catch the natterjack toads that are living on the site. The toads will be released in other areas. In addition, toad pools have been created to compensate for the draining of their living environment in the project area. One of these pools is shaped like a heart. This is for two reasons: first because it was constructed on Valentine's Day and second because the designer is from Friesland and wanted to incorporate his roots into the design. The heart shape is a Pompebléd, which is the Friesian name for the leaf of the waterlily, represented in the Friesian flag as seven red, heart-shaped leaves.



Planned work after construction period 2025

Once the toad catching work is completed, the construction work will begin. After this, the work roads and underground infrastructure, such as fire-fighting facilities and facilities for the drainage system will be constructed. It is essential to install a drainage system under the track bed to remove excess water. This system prevents water from accumulating, which can lead to subsidence and track instability. Once this underground infrastructure is in place, we will commence the visible construction of the track.

Completion of underground structures



Underground construction with shield walls

For future cable and pipeline routes required for the energy transition, underground structures will be installed under the track. Completion of these underground structures is underway. Shield walls will soon be installed, which are walls that seal the eight underground structures. The next step is to dump sand on top, after which this subproject is completed.

Work on cables and pipelines

In the last period, coordination measures have been carried out on the fibre-optic connections of the Port Authority and KPN (location I). This is preparatory work to ensure that all conditions are met before the actual implementation of the rail project begins. Evides is currently making modifications to the pipeline at the second location (location J). When these works have been completed, the Port Authority will have concluded the coordination works on the cables and pipelines of companies located in the port area.

This will be followed by work on cables and pipelines at LWR (Locomotive Workshop Rotterdam). Under the coordination of Swietelsky Rail, two underground structures are being constructed at this location under the LWR track. Additional cable and pipeline modifications will also be made to existing pipelines of parties located in the port area.

Alstom commissioned to deliver train protection systems.



In the first quarter of 2025, Port of Rotterdam Authority commissioned Alstom to make modifications to existing train protection systems and deliver new systems.

Alstom Nederland is a leading supplier and designer of train protection systems in the Netherlands. Alstom focuses on sustainable and smart mobility solutions and develops and delivers integrated systems for rail transport, including rolling stock, signalling systems and associated services.

For the EMZ project, Alstom will deliver new protection systems, including iVPI systems (Integrated Vital Processor Interlocking, see the blue box below this article). In addition, they will adapt and expand the hardware of the existing systems at the Amaliahaven and Maasvlakte. Alstom will also provide the components with updated and new software to ensure safe control and monitoring of the train process.

Moreover, Alstom has been commissioned to implement, deliver and test modifications and updates to the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) level 1. This system was previously developed, delivered, installed and tested by Alstom, making them a familiar face in the port area.

[More information](#) about Alstom.

The iVPI system, or Integrated Vital Processor Interlocking System, is an advanced train protection system developed by Alstom. This system is used to control signals and points in railway safety systems. The iVPI system is modularly designed for a long lifespan and reliable functioning. It ensures safe and efficient control and monitoring of train traffic.

Contract awarded to LOXIA



As an alliance partner of ProRail, LOXIA plays an important role in our project. They are responsible for adapting operation systems and operational rules for the railway, and provide valuable information for the underlying chains. This includes short- and long-term planning and informing transporters of the available rail infrastructure, nationally and internationally. They also provide digital subsurface data for track decommissioning.

Within the EMZ project, LOXIA is adapting software configurations for the systems that signallers use to control rail traffic. These systems require detailed information about the connection between points, signals, tracks and so on. LOXIA's engineers ensure that traffic control systems are seamlessly connected to the rail infrastructure, allowing trains to run as scheduled. LOXIA effectively creates the digital link between traffic control and the points on the track. [More information](#) about LOXIA.

Watch [LOXIA's video](#)



If you'd like to find out more about the entire Maasvlakte rail development, check out [our project page](#) Maasvlakte rail development.

Questions about the project? If you have any questions about the project, please email Environmental Manager Linda Vervooren l.vervooren@portofrotterdam.com.

Questions about rail development in the port area in general can be sent to Project Manager Bekir Calim b.calim@portofrotterdam.com.

For questions from the press, contact Press Officer Sigrid Hesselink, s.hesselink@portofrotterdam.com

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