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PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL WATER CENTRE TO BE SET UP IN ROTTERDAM

Rotterdam, 1 July - On 1 July, Dutch Delta Design 2012, on behalf of the Dutch water management sector, announced that the National Centre for Water will be established in Rotterdam. The National Centre for Water in Rotterdam has the ambition to develop into an expertise and visitors' centre of international repute in the area of water management and delta technology. The centre will project a prestigious, icon-like image, and will be opened in 2012. Rotterdam expects 250,000 visitors annually.

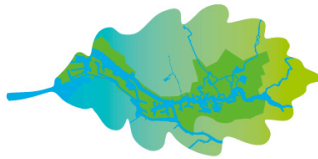
Thirty large parties from the water sector launched an ambitious plan on 1 July to reposition the Netherlands as *the* international platform for water management: Dutch Delta Design 2012. These parties expressed their commitment to making the Netherlands *the* centre for international authorities, corporations, government bodies, NGOs and the general public to turn to in order to solve water management issues anywhere in the world.

Showcase

The most tangible form in which the Netherlands can present itself as a global centre for water management, is by means of a Network of Water Expertise Centres, connected with architectural masterpieces and interesting events by some type of 'Michelin Route'. This network demonstrates how the Netherlands deals with water management issues. For the purpose of DDD2012, eight different regions set up partnerships in a certain niche. The National Centre for Water is the central portal of *Nederland Waterland* (the Netherlands, Water Nation). As *the* showcase for the Dutch water sector, it presents the finest examples of what the Netherlands has to offer in terms of water management and delta technology. The National Centre for Water Management in Rotterdam will be realized on or by the water in the district of *Stadshavens* (*City ports*). After all, with its rich water management history, Rotterdam is the living proof of the Dutch expertise in this area. The exact accommodation and location are yet to be defined and will be detailed in the business case, which will be completed by the end of 2009.

Climate change resilient

The National Centre for Water Management will proceed along the lines of existing developments in Rotterdam, such as Rotterdam Climate Proof, Stadshavens and the Clean Tech Delta. By means of the Rotterdam Climate Proof programme (part of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative), Rotterdam addresses climate adaptation in a dynamic fashion, conducting authoritative studies, applying innovative knowledge development, and taking decisive action to ensure that Rotterdam will be climate



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change resilient by 2025. The National Centre for Water Management will act as a catalyst for these developments, linking local innovation power to the national water sector. The force that is thus created will result in a stronger international image for the Dutch water sector and added economic value.