



# News release

**AkzoNobel**  
Tomorrow's Answers Today

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## **Dutch salt caverns to be used for gas oil storage**

**AkzoNobel enters into a partnership with North Sea Group to use existing underground salt caverns in the Twente region (in the east of the Netherlands) for the storage of gas oil.**

Both companies expect work on the project to be completed by the second half of 2011. The decision is in line with AkzoNobel's policy to find new uses for underground salt caverns. For its part, North Sea Group will be able to meet the growing demand for gas oil storage facilities in the Netherlands.

Underground storage offers many advantages in terms of sustainability. Not only are major changes to the landscape avoided, underground storage is also very safe. Both companies have expressed a preference for a number of caverns under the industrial area of Enschede. Studies have established that these caverns are suitable for storage purposes in terms of size, stability and permeability. The plan also fits into the existing industrial activities being conducted on the industrial estate.

"Storing gas oil in underground salt caverns is new to the Netherlands, but in other areas of the world they have been used for a long time to store petroleum products and gas," explains project leader Marc Pijnenborg of AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals. AkzoNobel's policy is to find new uses for old salt caverns. In the north of the Netherlands, the company is involved in projects for the underground storage of natural gas and nitrogen.

### **North Sea Group**

North Sea Group is a major player in the west European downstream oil market. The company combines storage and distribution with international trading and the sale of mineral oils and biofuels.

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