



# News release

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## **AkzoNobel invests in green salt transport for chlorine**

**Amersfoort – AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals and the Nederlandse Particuliere Rijnvaart Centrale (NPRC, a cooperative of independent barge owners in the Netherlands) announced that they have signed a five-year contract which will significantly reduce NOx and soot particle emissions from barges used to transport salt from the salt plant in Delfzijl to the chlorine production plant in Rotterdam.**

Under the agreement, the owners of the five dedicated inland barges (each of them with a capacity of 2800 t) used for the supply of salt to AkzoNobel's Rotterdam chlorine plant, will have their engines reconstructed. The installation of a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system will result in an annual NOx reduction of 78% - from about 100 tons per year to 22 tons. In addition, filter technology will reduce emissions of soot particles by 98% (from 5 tons to 0.1 ton per year). AkzoNobel will pay a surcharge per ton which will help the barge owners to cover the investment over the forthcoming years. In addition, they will receive substantial subsidies from the Dutch Government.

Says Knut Schwalenberg, General Manager of AkzoNobel's Chlor-Alkali business: "With this agreement, we will achieve an impressive emission reduction. In fact, this solution benefits all parties involved: We can improve our environmental performance significantly, as the NOx emissions of the total transports arranged by our Chlor-Alkali business (ship, train and truck) will be reduced by about 20%. The barge owners will enhance the value of their ships with state-of-the-art technology. And the general public will benefit from cleaner air."

Stefan Meeusen, Director of NPRC, commented: "We are definitely pleased about the contract. The shipping market has been hit hard by the recession and barge owners are suffering from an instable business situation. All the more beneficial is it for them to secure a five-year contract which includes investments in their equipment. NPRC is dedicated to providing best service to our customers and we are proud to be front-runners in making our transport more sustainable."

The agreement was facilitated by project office Integraal Ondernemen Drechtsteden (IOD) which brings together companies, science and authorities in the domestic shipping industry to innovate products and processes. The 'clean engine for inland shipping' is one of their projects. Dominique Bronzwaer, Director of IOD, is pleased with the agreement from this cluster of five barges: "Inland shipping is under discussion because of the environmental impact of the ships' emissions. The agreement proves the commitment of all parties involved in this logistic chain: AkzoNobel, NPRC and the barge owners agreed upon "green transport". We have worked with SootTech, Emitech, Kantoor Binnenvaart, the Transport & Water Management Inspectorate and TNO, in order to find a practical solution for this issue for the next 5 – 10 years, and now we are very happy that this work bears fruit."

The reconstruction of the barges motors will start now and is expected to be finalized by September 2010.

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