

## **A Sustainable Service Centre and Distribution Platform for Green Coffee in Zeebrugge.**

### **SeaBridge, Efico's daughter company**

Efico is a trading house which imports and trades coffee out of 37 producing countries since 1926. The coffee is being distributed, generally from Flemish harbours, to more than 650 European coffee roasters. With SeaBridge Efico goes back to her historic activities – the storage, handling, refinement and distribution of green or rough coffee.

Efico wishes to put its expertise at the service of other companies in the international coffee sector or other economic operators who are linked to green coffee or have a strong need for high-quality and sustainable service.

SeaBridge is a separate and independent company within the group and operates according to a new, fully sustainable, model whereby the economic activity and the climate-neutral expansion are being fully disconnected from the impact on the environment. The company has 2 divisions: Logistics and Ecopower.

### **SeaBridge Logistics**

Nowadays Efico trades a volume which approaches the total Belgian consumption (+/- 950.000 bags of coffee per year) in a strongly changing society which continually demands higher quality requirements for her products.

The concept of SeaBridge was developed on the basis of 4 pillars:

1. quality, food safety and traceability - 2. customs legislation - 3. environmental management - 4. waste management.

The high-quality and fully isolated concrete construction has a constant storage capacity of +/- 450.000 bags of coffee (equivalent to 45% of the Belgian consumption). The temperature and humidity inside this building will remain constant during the seasons to be able to guarantee an atmospheric condition which can continually safeguard the ideal preserving conditions for green coffee. The air- and product quality inside the building is being guaranteed by a unique filter system which will prevent possible cross-infection of goods by moulds and Mycotoxines.

In the 32 metre high tower which will be constructed alongside the building, 24 silo's of 50 MT and machines of the highest quality will be assembled. SeaBridge will be able to give her clients a unique service for the reception, sampling, changing, blending, drying, sorting, rebagging and bulking of coffee. With each step weighing and sampling will be possible. The incoming and outgoing good flows / processes are fully separated in accordance to the food safety norms. SeaBridge will be able to guarantee a full traceability of all her products. Also the lighting within the warehouse will meet the severe quality requirements. Finally the transpo of pallets within the construction will merely be executed with clean, "odour-free" electrically driven forklifts.

Thanks to a direct railway connection, the coffee containers will arrive by rail on the site.

SeaBridge will eliminate the need to use 3.000 trucks after its first operational year. Rational waste management on base of cycle thinking will contribute to the fact that activities on this site will also score on this level.

### **SeaBridge, contributes on an innovative manner to the Flemish economic performance**

VIA – Vlaanderen in Actie is a project which is developed and carried by the Flemish Minister President, his entire government and a broad socio-economic bearing surface which wants to bring Flanders to the top of the European regions. We are extremely proud that we may and can identify ourselves with this initiative in this region together with the port installation to contribute our mite to an ambitious project which will be able to guarantee the future and the prosperity of our region. According to us, SeaBridge is a classic example of the elaboration for the pillar "logistics Flanders" which aims by inventiveness at a durable and strong economic performance with a high added value.

The logistics in Flanders, cannot be developed without the exceptional collaboration between service providers / companies and the administrations on which they depend.

### **SeaBridge, EcoPower**

The power supply for the functioning within this building, inclusive adjacent offices, will be generated by the 19.900m<sup>2</sup> photovoltaic cells which will be assembled on the roof of this construction. This establishment will probably operate on its own produced green energy. With further growth of our activity we will fall back on supplementary capacity which will be produced by the wind turbines.

## **SeaBridge has chosen for the port of Zeebrugge, strategic location in the centre of the European Gateway and the Hamburg-Le Havre Range**

But what ties Efico, a typical Antwerp trading house and the port installation of Zeebrugge in this collaboration? Shortly summarized --- VISION --- which per definition is embedded in a long term perspective and where durability and the generation of considerable added value in the logistical chain are central. SeaBridge disposes of a concession of approximately 10 ha.

### **Durable investment**

The building- and infrastructure work are provisionally budgeted to € 30 million. The rise of the budget regard to the initial plan is due to complementary elaborations of the machinery park and the expansion of the equipment of the building. These investments will have a direct impact on the quality of the solutions of services to customers; the valorisation will be translated into real added values from the first months of the functioning of the site.

### **Planning & Awards of the project**

In May 2008 Efico announced the development of her new project. In June 2008, the pro-activity of Efico was being rewarded with the Innovation Award of the "Speciality Coffee Association of Europe". The SCAE Innovation Awards reward and encourage the entrepreneurs in Europe who apply themselves to innovative and creative solutions and which have as goal to ameliorate and solve the problems of their sector.

In September 2009 SeaBridge will reception the first containers. The service centre will be fully operational beginning 2010.

### **Efico**

Efico NV is a Belgian trading house in green coffee and cacao, founded in 1926, with headquarter in Antwerp and operational offices in Germany, France, Switzerland, Guatemala and Ethiopia.

Reliable corporate practices and socially responsible entrepreneurship are the core competences of Efico's entrepreneurial policy and are translated in the values of the UN Global Compact, which joined in 2003 as first coffee trader. In the same year the Efico Foundation was founded, in 2005 followed by the Efico Fund within the King Boudouin Foundation, to support sustainability projects in the coffee- and cacao producing countries.

Until now together with more than 27 partners, 22 multistakeholder projects were done for a total value of approximately € 1.000.000,- in 10 different countries.

Since May 2008 Efico works at the development of a new European distribution centre SeaBridge, for the automated reception, refinement, treatment, storage and distribution of green coffee in the port of Zeebrugge.

*For more information :*

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