

The largest shiplift

LAUWERSOOG - The largest shiplift in the Netherlands, Belgium and northern Germany can be found in Lauwersoog. Vessels up to 240 tonnes can be taken out of the water with this shiplift of Next Generation Shiplift, a subsidiary of Next Generation Shipyards and Hendrikson Holding bv, located in the outer harbour of Lauwersoog.

A year ago the promoters and Albert Keizer, director of the new company Next Generation ShipLift, and Onno Nienhuis of Hendrikson Holding, decided to purchase the crane. Keizer is also director of Next Generation Shipyards. "We want to give the port and companies in Lauwersoog a boost. With this crane here we can grow further. There are many offshore and wind vessels in the region, not to mention all the fishing boats, charter boats and watersport boats." In early May the lift was brought from Italy to the Netherlands by six low loaders and was installed. Last week the crane was officially inaugurated.



Clients of Next Generation Shipyards include the Dutch Pilotage Authority. They got the scoop. The Lyra was the first ship to be taken out of the water with the new crane. The Lyra is 23 metres long and weighs 56 tonnes. It is a jet driven pilot tender of the Lynx class. The ship came to the shipyard for major maintenance. "The second ship will be the Ecolution, the vessel formerly belonging to Wubbo Ockels, now part of Durable Wad Foundation," explains Keizer. "The crane can effortlessly beach a catamaran crew tender but a Eurocutter of more than 200 tonnes is also not a problem." The basin is 10 metres wide and ideally suited for catamarans. Close to the crane, the company has over 10,000 square metres of storage area available for ships. This offers the possibility to manage, store or crane spare parts as well as containers.

Safe lifting is done with eight computer-controlled and monitored winches with lifting blocks, each with three slings. In total we can properly distribute the forces over twelve slings. The lift is easily manoeuvrable over 360 degrees, can ride even on rough terrain and is able to load and unload trucks. Next Generation Shipyards has a 24-hour service in order to provide assistance in emergencies. This service is also planned for Next Generation Lift. The wharf and crane are easily accessible by road and the Wadden Sea: 4.60 at NAP (Amsterdam Ordnance Datum). There are even plans to dredge the access from the Wadden Sea for a deeper draft. The Vissershaven (fishing port) has a depth of 5 metres at NAP. Through the lock the yard is easily accessible for inland transport and watersport crafts. At low tide 4.50 NAP with a length of 60 metres and 9 metres wide.

NG ShipLift adds value to the shipyard, but offers crane operations also to other customers. In consultation independent work is possible on the 10,000 square metres of storage area. Keizer explains why a lift was chosen: "The advantage of a lift over a dock is that with a lift you can pull ships out of the water at any time while with a dock you have to wait until the dock is empty. This

makes a lift ideal for emergencies. Furthermore, in addition to containers, we can also load other goods on ships, for example, components for wind farms." Meanwhile, we have made arrangements for the crane with the CIV (the Cooperative Purchasing Association), engaged in fishing, watersports and offshore activities. Even the shrimp fleet in Lauwersoog is happy with the arrival of the shiplift. Rumours about the arrival of the shiplift were going around and soon after companies came forward showing their interest in cranes.

NG Shipyards focuses on construction, repair and maintenance of vessels, both in the professional and the luxury segment. "All are strong, solid and tough seaworthy vessels," Keizer clarified. "You can think of crew tenders, survey vessels, hydrographic survey vessels, firefighting vessels, diving support vessels, taxi boats, lifeboats for SAR purposes, ships for support of wind farms and water sports."

Do you want a reliable address for well-priced cranes or are you in need of emergency assistance? Call +31 (0)519-346632 all day (24-hour service) or +31 (0)6-20409940 outside business hours.

E.J. Bruinekool Fotografie & Tekst is sending you this press release on behalf of Next Generation Shiplift BV.