

Successful pilot project Vopak

Interview with Dennis de Witte, managing director AquasmartXL

AquasmartXL recently concluded a successful jetty inspection at the Vopak Terminal Botlek. The pilot project was commissioned by Vopak and carried out in cooperation with RoNik Inspectioneering. Dennis de Witte, managing director AquasmartXL: 'the cooperation was established during the selection days of PortXL. CIO Leo Brand and Innovation Engagement Manager Bart van der Meer from Vopak were interested in our drone for jetty inspections. They advised us to talk to RoNik about a co-creation. And so we did.'

Vopak is the first major player in the port of Rotterdam that has implemented an innovative Aqua-Drone solution for an existing problem: the inability to inspect with accuracy the status of a jetty. Dennis de Witte states: 'the first month was all about making sure safety procedures and protocols were in order. That took up most of our time. After that we spend a full day at the Botlek Terminal to collect as much data as we could. We made a 3D model for engineering purposes, and involved an inspector to make an independent inspection report. Lastly, we created high-resolution pictures, from which you can see the structure of the jetty from any angle.'

With the use of the Aqua-Drone, Vopak obtains an accurate picture of the status of their entire asset. With the baseline measurement they can improve their maintenance management, but that is not the only improvement, inspection time is reduced and thus also the overall maintenance throughput time. Customers can moor their ships faster, states Dennis de Witte. "With the current setup of the Aqua-Drone all wet assets can be inspected from quay walls. The drone has a modular system, where we can attach job-specific cameras. We have a camera that has different lenses, an action camera and a 360-degree camera. In the future we want a multi sensor platform with a plug & play environment with different kind of sensors and data collectors."

Currently AquasmartXL is in consultation with SPIE to investigate the possibility for co-development. In addition, AquasmartXL is working with Beton@, a civil engineering consultancy and RoNik Inspectioneering.

If you want to learn more about AquasmartXL or contact them you can send an e-mail via info@aquasmartxl.com

