

Press Release

The city of Antwerp will have the largest eco-distribution centre in our country: from now on, citizens of Antwerp will receive their parcels at home by cargo bike and electric cars

DHL Express comes to innovative business park Blue Gate

19/12/2019



The eco-effective, water-based business Blue Gate in Antwerp has a Belgian first. DHL Express will soon be setting up its largest distribution centre in Belgium. The site – also the very first circular and climate-neutral business park in Flanders – will house a brand new 4,260 m² logistics building from where parcels will be distributed to the city using electric vehicles and cargo bikes. *“A logistics out-of-the-box solution for urban distribution that proves that climate ambitions and logistics go hand in hand,”* says Jo De Wolf, CEO of Montea that is investing in the development of the building.

In 2020, logistics giant DHL Express will set up its largest distribution centre in Belgium on the eco-effective, water-based business park Blue Gate Antwerp. The unique design of the logistics building ensures that urban distribution can be optimally organized in Antwerp in the future. In concrete terms, on one side of the distribution platform, 15 unloading quays for larger trucks will be constructed to pre-sort the deliveries. On the other side, 90 smaller vehicles and electric cargo bikes will be loaded in order to serve the city's consumers in an environmentally efficient way.

This will change the way DHL Express delivers parcels in the city. For example, the large DHL trucks will disappear from the city centre of Antwerp and the parcels will be delivered by electric vans and electric cargo bikes.

“The fact that DHL Express has opted for this type of delivery does not come as a surprise. The logistics sector needs out-of-the-box solutions if we really want to play a role in the climate problem. In this distribution centre, DHL Express is literally moving closer to the consumer. What's more, they are fully committed to sustainable delivery methods. DHL Express, for example, is fully committed to a forward-looking way of adding their 'last touch' for delivering parcels in the city. We applaud this approach and it will become the norm.” Jo De Wolf, CEO Montea.



Image: ©BGA – DHL – 2019

Thanks to this system and the type of building, DHL Express handles some 4,500 parcels per day. In total, the building covers 4,260 m² of which 3,360 m² warehouse space and 900 m² office space. The acquisition of this multimodal site and buildings represents a transaction of €10.2 million.

Electric cargo bikes

The city of Antwerp can therefore rightly be proud of itself. Blue Gate Antwerp will be the first circular and climate-neutral business park in Flanders. This area used to be the heart of the oil industry, but today the remediated grounds are ready for a new chapter. Montea - one of the largest logistics real estate players in Belgium - is helping to invest in the development of the brand new logistics building.

Every complex that is built on the innovative Blue Gate site must be completely climate-neutral according to the rules. For the development of the new logistics building, Montea is therefore fully committed to sustainability. In addition, the building materials are largely supplied by water. As a result, there would be considerably fewer lorries on the road and CO₂ emissions would therefore be reduced even during the construction process.

"The new distribution centre excels in sustainability. This gives the building a particularly strong BREEAM Excellent score, an international standard in terms of sustainability for buildings. Solar panels will be installed over the entire surface of the roof of the logistics building, supplying electricity to the entire building. The electric vehicles and bicycles will be charged with the energy extracted from the panels." Jo De Wolf, CEO Montea.



Image: cubicycles (electric cargo bikes) – ©DHL

Ambitious leadership

The development of the Blue Gate circular business park came about through a partnership between various stakeholders. DEME Environmental Contractors (DEC), for example, is the expert in the remediation and redevelopment of this brownfield. The Flemish Government is contributing to this project through do-and-dare company PMV. The autonomous municipal company for real estate and urban projects (AG Vespa) supports the city of Antwerp as one of the initiators of the total redevelopment of Petroleum South. Bopro is taking on the role of developer. Finally, Montea is the logistics real estate investment partner at Blue Gate, which will become the new standard when it comes to smart use of scarce space.



ABOUT MONTEA "SPACE FOR GROWTH"

Montea Comm. VA is a public property investment company (SIRP-SIIC) under Belgian law, specializing in logistical property in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. The company is a reference player on this market. Montea literally offers its customers space for growth by providing versatile, innovative property solutions. This enables Montea to create value for its shareholders. As at 30/09/2019 Montea's portfolio of property represented total floor space of 1,333,155 m², spread across 67 locations. Montea Comm. VA has been listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels (MON) and Paris (MONTP) since 2006. Montea won the EPRA BPR Gold Award on 11/9/2019

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