Safe, efficient maritime and barge traffic

Safe and fast transit of barges and seagoing vessels is one of the top priorities of the Port of Antwerp. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) contributes to this. The accurate overview of vessel traffic generated from the AIS track and trace system, enhances nautical safety, lock planning, berth management and terminal planning.

"AIS contributes to greater nautical safety and a faster transit at the Port of Antwerp."

Patrick Rifaut, Skipper, Floratransshipping nv

**PRODUCT SHEET** Automatic Identification System (AIS)

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<th>Benefits</th>
<th>For shipping companies, barge operators and skippers</th>
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<td>Proactive traffic control</td>
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<td>Safety in port due to mutual visibility and recognisability</td>
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<td>Efficient berth management</td>
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<td>Better lock planning</td>
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<td>Clear picture of barge locations and identification</td>
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www.portofantwerp.com/en/instream/nautical-coordination
## What is AIS?

The Automatic Identification System (AIS) automatically sends and receives information on barge’s or vessel’s name, position, speed and course.

Antwerp was the first European port to make AIS obligatory for barges, in close cooperation with the inland navigation sector.

## How does AIS work?

Each barge and seagoing vessel is equipped with a transponder which emits static vessel particulars and dynamic voyage data, automatically integrated in the port’s nautical information system (APICS) and the Barge Traffic System (BTS). This results in an accurate and reliable visualisation of the traffic situation.

## Use of AIS?

Terminal operators, skippers and shipping companies can visualise the other barges and vessels on the AIS/radar system, which enhances terminal planning and nautical safety.

The Antwerp Port Authority Shipping Management department uses AIS data to obtain a transparent overview of the overall traffic situation. It allows traffic controllers to monitor traffic deployment and optimise lock planning and the use of berths.

### APICS

APICS, the Antwerp Port Information and Control System, is the port information system which supports the business processes of the Antwerp Port Authority Shipping Management department to optimally plan, guide and monitor barge and vessel traffic.

APICS is accessible via APCS, the Antwerp Port Community Platform, offering electronic solutions for transparent logistics flows in the port.

More info at:
www.portofantwerp.com/apcs/en/apics

### BTS

The Barge Traffic System (BTS) is a unique online slot request and monitoring system for container barges and terminal operators. It optimises the handling of container barges and maximises loading and unloading efficiency.

More info at:
www.portofantwerp.com/en/instream/containerhandling

↑ Transparent overview of the overall traffic situation