Investment guide
The port of Antwerp, an international integrated platform
With this investment guide we seek to support you in your decision-making process to realize an investment project in the heart of Europe. The Port of Antwerp is a crucial link in a supply chain that connects you to the inner European market and the rest of the world. With an annual volume of more than 200 million tons of maritime freight handled, the extensive storage capacity and the presence of the largest petrochemical cluster in Europe, the Port of Antwerp is the largest maritime, logistics and industrial cluster in Europe.

Good nautical access, a dense network of hinterland connections and its geographical location are just the top three in the list of advantages. In addition, the Port of Antwerp offers an attractive investment climate in an innovative environment, with a wide range of support, excellent quality of life for expats and a can-do mentality that pervades the entire port community.

CONNECTING YOUR INVESTMENT TO THE WORLD
ANTWERP IN WESTERN EUROPE

ANTWERP IN BELGIUM

CONNECTING YOUR INVESTMENT TO THE WORLD
If you are looking for a strategic location for a new business venture, in whatever shape or form, Flanders — the northern region of Belgium — offers you a unique blend of advantages. Thousand of foreign companies are already taking advantage of these assets. Flanders is home to over 700 European Distribution Centers (EDC), the highest EDC density in Europe. It is a paradise for any logistics operation.

Claire Tillekaerts
CEO Flanders Investment & Trade
10 good reasons to invest in the port of Antwerp

5 solid facts:

1. Crucial link in your supply chain
   - A reliable partner
   - Gateway to Europe and to the world
   - In the centre of the EU
   - Fast connectivity

2. Opportunities
   - A world-class multifunctional port
   - Customer-oriented approach
   - Realising synergies

3. Good climate to invest
   - Site area availability
   - Investment and permit climate
   - Stimulating incentives
   - Supplementary subsidies
   - Belgium as test market

4. Wide range of technical support
   - Diverse storage facilities
   - Value Added Logistics
   - Chain of technical and innovative services
   - SHE and product compliance partners
   - Circular economy

5. Financial and legal support just around the corner
   - Simple procedures to set up a business
   - A virtual free trade zone
   - International goods assurance and banking

5 supporting arguments:

1. Qualified and flexible workforce
   - Site area availability
   - Investment and permit climate
   - Stimulating incentives
   - Supplementary subsidies
   - Belgium as test market

2. One-stop-shop support
   - Dedicated teams
   - Flanders Investment & Trade
   - Federations
   - Antwerp Port Authority from landlord to facilitator

3. Innovation and R&D
   - Multiple centers of excellence – Strategic Research Centers
   - Belgian Industrial Research and Development (BIR&D)
   - Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry (FISCH)

4. Next-door decision makers
   - In Brussels you can contact the world
   - Pragmatic approach for decision-making

5. Excellent quality of life for expats
   - Excellent housing & leisure facilities
   - Multicultural environment & international schools
   - At the crossroad of history and new trends
Crucial link in your supply chain

- Gateway to Europe and to the world
- In the centre of European industry and consumption
- European Customs Union: 28 member states with free movement of goods, people and capital
- Investments in your future needs

"We chose to set up in Belgium because we did not want to be seen as British, German or French… we wanted to be pan-European."

Ferdinando BECCALLI, President and CEO
General Electric International
Investments to keep up with your future needs

Public authorities continually invest in optimising mobility in and around the port and in an optimal infrastructure, while private investments result in state-of-the-art equipment and warehousing.

A reliable partner

To stand out from the competition on the world market, companies call upon the best possible chain to get their cargo at its final destination. The port of Antwerp is a crucial link in this chain offering reliability, flexibility, productivity, sustainability and innovation.

Widely connected to overseas destinations

Antwerp is the leading European port for regular breakbulk sailings to all areas, and for container services to the Americas, Africa, the Near and Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent. For closer destinations, Antwerp offers numerous shortsea and feeder services. The port of Antwerp offers direct connections to more than 1300 ports worldwide.

In the centre of Europe

Located 80 km inland in Europe, Antwerp offers the fastest, cheapest, and most sustainable connections with the European hinterland. 60% of European purchasing and production power lies within a radius of 500 km, resulting in unrivalled market coverage. It allows the combination of in- and outgoing freights. If you opt for Antwerp, you will find yourself in the gateway to Europe and be connected to the world.

EU, a single customs union

All goods go through import/export procedures only once after which they are free to move anywhere in the EU. The European Customs Union is a unified market: the market conditions in all 28 member states are equal with free movement of goods, people and capital throughout the EU.

Fast connectivity

Regular rail and barge services, a large network of international highways and major pipelines offer a direct access to the main production and consumption centres in Europe.
MSC has been active in Antwerp for 40 years. Customer-oriented, more productive cranes, efficient dock workers. Time is of the essence. You will not find this mentality in any other port.”

Marc BEERLANDT, CEO
MSC BELGIUM
The port of Antwerp’s biggest customer

Opportunities

- A world-class, multifunctional port and unique maritime, value added logistical and industrial platform
- Customer oriented approach
- Realising synergies
A world-class multifunctional port
The strength of the port of Antwerp is its triple cluster with over 900 maritime, industrial and logistics players that mutually reinforce each other as a dense agglomeration of companies. This, in combination with high productivity, results in a minor supply chain cost. The port owes this leading position to her central location, to the strategic gateways and infrastructure, and to a dense multimodal network of water, rail, and road transport connections. Moreover, in the Antwerp region you will find an industrial environment that is second to none. With over 30 production sites and 16 tank storage terminals, the port of Antwerp hosts Europe’s largest integrated petrochemical cluster and serves as a major oil refinery and ethylene hub. Here, the cluster effects are most noticeable in comprehensive product lines, a guaranteed energy supply and a chain of supporting technical services. Most energy sources are available, from conventional nuclear power plants over combined heat-power units to sustainable wind turbines and solar cells. A highly qualified, multilingual and productive workforce guarantees operational excellence.

Customer-oriented approach
The port of Antwerp is active 24/7 and the companies, both public and private, are committed to openness, accessibility and serviceability. Coupled with great flexibility and broad expertise, they exemplify the ‘getting things done’ mentality. This ‘can do’ approach is the shortest way to reach your goal!
Good climate to invest

- Site area availability
- Active contribution from European, Belgian, Flemish and local Antwerp city authorities
- Investment support related to taxes, employment, training and R&D
- Permit policy guaranteeing certainty
- Belgium is the ideal test market for innovations and new products

**Site area availability**

Is there still room for you in the cluster? Yes, there certainly is. There are possibilities for co-siting on both the right and left bank areas of the port, with lots of opportunities for synergies (integration of production and its flows, integration of energy supply and sharing of technical and logistic services), enabling optimized sharing of costs. Finally, hundreds of hectares of greenfield and brownfield sites are available throughout the port for further investments. We help you find the right site for your specific requirements.

**Investment and permit climate**

In order to maximize the synergy effects and strengthen the supply chain, the port of Antwerp aims to continually expand logistic, industrial and manufacturing activities. We therefore actively seek new investment projects. In the port of Antwerp you will find an investment and permit climate to which all administrations actively contribute: EU institutions, the Belgian federal government, Flemish regional government as well as the Antwerp city council.

**Stimulating incentives**

Both the Belgian and Flemish governments have implemented a number of investment stimulating incentives. These range from investment incentives over tax-related schemes to employment, training and R&D advantages. Belgium has a favorable tax environment for innovative companies and offers a number of specific tax incentives. These include the notional interest deduction (deduction of risk capital), meaning that companies can deduct a notional interest based on their equity from their taxable income. In addition, an advance tax ruling system between the company and the tax authorities is possible. This agreement determines the company’s future tax obligations in order to create clarity and certainty. Our investment team will be glad to guide you through this tax area.

**Supplementary subsidies**

In addition to the favorable tax environment, you can benefit from subsidies and non-tax-related incentives such as subsidies for training and environment-friendly technology. In addition to this investment support, a permit policy has been designed to help investors make the right decisions and implement them quickly and accurately. A permit policy that moreover guarantees certainty for your project.

**Belgium as test market**

Belgium is situated at the crossroads of three major European cultures: Germanic, Roman and Anglo-Saxon. Flanders, the Dutch speaking part in the north, is a region with high purchasing power, making it the ideal test market for innovations and new products for many international companies (i.e. Coca Cola, H&M) and organizations.
Wide range of technical support

Storage facilities for all types of products
Value Added Logistics
Chain of technical & innovative services
Circular economy

Diverse storage facilities
With more than 6 million m² covered storage, the port of Antwerp has more storage capacity than any other port in Europe. It includes standard and refrigerated warehouses, extensive facilities for dangerous goods. Ten international specialist firms — all working to the highest HSE standards — more than 7 million cubic meters tank terminals. Most of the storage facilities are bonded (virtual free zones).

Value-added logistics (VAL)
It is an important part of the port’s service offering, including inventory management, quality control, retail packaging, labelling, and for certain cargo even second stage manufacturing. Customer-tailored freight handling at warehouses located in the vicinity of the terminals reduces pre- and post-haulage.

Chain of technical and innovative services
The entire chain of technical contractors is available in the proximity of the Antwerp cluster, from EPC companies over process optimization specialists to heavy lifting and periodic or daily maintenance (MRO, asset integrity management). Mechanical, piping, electrical & instrumentation and safety equipment, risk analysis, environmental control and waste processing, every specialization is present.

Together with the industry and the manufacturing companies, the Antwerp Port Authority aims to further strengthen the triple cluster with production supporting activities (central warehousing, maritime services, training center, lab). Last but not least, the Antwerp port Authority aims to encourage developments towards the 4.0 industry. Highly automated terminals are already present in the Antwerp Port area, as well companies actively taking steps towards the generation of ‘smart factories’.

SHE and product compliance partners
As for safety, inspection, verification, testing and certification, you will find well known international companies and experienced, well-equipped local in the Antwerp Port area.

Circular economy
Last but not least you need to manage your materials effectively and efficiently. The port of Antwerp is home to all European leaders in waste and material management, to many smaller niche players and hosts an ecosystem of several hundreds of companies that might be able to use the materials that are not useful for you. It is also a logistic hub connecting to all parts of the world and thus to potential clients for your remaining material flows, sometimes named waste flows.

We started out our activities in the port of Antwerp as a provider of electricity supplies to ships. Today we are active worldwide as a partner for the automation of internal materials handling at industrial and logistical companies. The port of Antwerp is an inspiring home base for us to develop our innovative solutions.”

Jan VERCAMMEN, CEO
Egemin Automation
Financial and legal support just around the corner

- Simple procedures to set up a business
- A virtual free trade zone
- International goods assurance and banking

Simple procedures to set up a business
Setting up a business involves relatively simple procedures. Our dedicated investment team is your first entry and are open to any queries you may have. This team will help you to find all the financial, legal and fiscal support that is available in Belgium, especially within the immediate Antwerp/Brussels area. In Brussels all major consulting companies have a strong presence. These service providers are well connected with the European decision makers and have a very good knowledge of the EU and Belgian regulatory environment.

A virtual free trade zone
The numerous available alternatives to avoid direct import duties and taxes, make the port of Antwerp an ideal distribution and virtual free zone. Almost all warehouses, tanks, silos and terminals have the status of customs warehouses. This procedure allows goods to be stored without any customs duties or VAT being payable at the time of import.

International goods assurance and banking
The Cargo Insurance Policy, a unique tool, is prompting commodity traders to route their freight flows via the port of Antwerp or to actually set up shop in the port area. In addition, Belgium with its small but very open economy, provides extra security, through credit insurers, for hedging specific risks that may be encountered when investing in or trading with emerging economies.

In Belgium you also have the international banking world at your fingertips, with a very wide range of services and a dense network of branches. From Antwerp you are only a mouse click away from both the City of London and Frankfurt, the European financial hub.

PMV nv is a Flemish investment company. It finances promising entrepreneurs from the very start through the growth and to the internationalization of their business. It also invests in large infrastructure projects, real estate and renewable energy. It focuses on the sustainable economic development of Flanders, with demonstrable added value for both economy and society.”

Michel CASSELMAN, GENERAL MANAGER PMV
WWW.PMV.EU

2016 KOF GLOBALISATION INDEX

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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The high level of openness is illustrated by the KOF Index in which Belgium is ranked No 3 on a worldwide scale of most globalised countries in the world.
**Qualified and flexible workforce**

> Large and varied pool of qualified people
> Top ranking universities
> Specialist platforms

**Highly qualified and productive workforce**

The region of Flanders is renowned for its highly educated, multilingual and productive workforce. Employers are famous for their hands-on attitude, customer and quality focus, technical knowledge, eagerness to learn and reliability, not to mention diplomatic empathy and stress-resistance. Belgian employees are also known for their strong work ethic, wide sharing of knowledge and high standards for safety, quality and the environment. Belgian members of personnel at all levels and in all disciplines are frequently chosen by multinational companies to supervise and start up international investment projects in other parts of the world.

**Top ranking universities**

In the greater Antwerp area you will find a large and varied pool of highly qualified employees. The region has a wide range of institutes covering all economic and technical disciplines. Moreover, Antwerp is conveniently located for graduates from universities and colleges in the European hinterland.

The Belgian education system has an excellent reputation and is ranked 7th in the world according to the Global Competitiveness Report 2014–2015 (World Economic Forum). The Flemish are among Europe’s most multilingual people.

**Specialist platforms**

The Antwerp oil and chemical cluster has its own specialist platforms set up by the industry in collaboration with the world of education to supply additional training for its operational personnel. A good example is ACTA. It is the process industries’ partner for technical training: mechanical, electro-technical, instrumentation and automation as well as process engineering.

“Belgian logistics service providers – with Antwerp in the lead – are the fourth most productive in the world, ahead of the Dutch, German and French.”

One-stop-shop support

» Dedicated team ensures one-stop-shop approach
» Flanders Investment & Trade
» National and international federations located nearby
» Antwerp Port Authority from landlord to facilitator

Dedicated teams
You find great openness for discussion among local, regional and federal governments. You will also obtain direct support from Antwerp Port Authority with its one-stop-shop approach by dedicated teams. They will guide you through topics like: real estate, SHE and product compliance partners, permits, employment related aspects, fiscal regime and incentives, business and trade facilitation.

Most of the service providers in the port of Antwerp offer end-to-end solutions (freight forwarding, storage, valued added logistics, customs administration, fiscal representation and distribution services).

Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT)
Foreign companies with investment projects in the port of Antwerp can obtain additional support from FIT with its many years of experience in this area, in full confidentiality.

Federations
As an investor, you can call upon the specialist expertise of:
- VOKA Alfaport, the federation of port-bound businesses and logistics companies in the port of Antwerp, under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce Antwerp-Waasland (VOKA).
- Industry federations such as Agoria (Belgian federation of the technical industry and essencia (Belgian federation of chemical, life sciences and plastics industries).

Antwerp Port Authority from landlord to facilitator
The port of Antwerp grew the last years from a landlord port to an active facilitator. This means the Port Authority is an active partner in creating the ideal site factors and has daily and direct links to private entrepreneurs. The Antwerp Port Authority owns and manages the sites in the port area, and makes them available to port companies for their activities on the basis of concession agreements.

The Port Authority’s concession policy is carefully designed to make the most efficient use of the available land and to ensure that new investments fit in with the strategic vision for the port, namely to promote sustainable development, create added value, defend the port’s competitive position, and care for the environment.

“...As a result of the port of Antwerp’s proactive concession policy, we had access to a larger surface area and were able to make groundbreaking investments in the breakbulk sector. In this way, iron and steel are anchored in the port of Antwerp with high quality guarantee.”

Peter VAN DEN EYNDE, CEO
Wijngaardnatie
Innovation and R&D

- Multiple centers of excellence – Strategic Research Centers
- Belgian industrial Research and Development
- Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry

**Multiple centers of excellence – Strategic Research Centers**

The Flemish region has a strong focus on innovation and R&D. Special provisions and incentives have been developed to stimulate innovation and a knowledge-based economy. A dense network of universities, complemented by market-driven strategic research centers in selected fields, drives the knowledge-intensive economy. In this respect, today’s strategic research centers help bridge the gap between fundamental and applied research.

**VITO** is a leading European independent research and consultancy center in the areas of clean-tech and sustainable development, working on solutions to address the big societal challenges of our time.

**Flanders Make** is the strategic research center for the manufacturing industry Make®. In it, Flanders’ DRIVE, Flanders’ Mechatronics Technology Centre (FMTC) and laboratories of the 5 Flemish universities join forces to set up a top-level research network in Flanders.

**Imec** is Europe’s largest independent research centre in nanoelectronics and nano-technology and boasts high expertise in software and ICT. Its staff of more than 3,500 people includes over 550 industrial residents and guest researchers. Imec’s research is applied in better healthcare, smart electronics, smart cities, sustainable energy, and safer transport.

**VIB** is a life sciences research institute, where basic research is performed with a strong focus on translating scientific results into pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial applications.

**BiR&D**

Belgian industrial Research and Development (BiR&D) is the name of the association that groups international industrial companies with major operations and R&D activities in Belgium. The mission of BiR&D is to stimulate the attractiveness and the effectiveness of industrial R&D in Belgium. Associated partners are Agoria and essenscia.

**Catalisti**

The mission of Catalisti is to identify, stimulate and catalyze innovations for sustainable chemistry and plastics in Flanders. It is the first chemistry knowledge centre in Europe that has sustainability as the main criterion for the assessment and implementation of projects.

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“Our climatic chamber customers are typically manufacturers of large and heavy machinery of up to 150 tons, so the port of Antwerp was a logical choice for us. With the help of the Port Authority, we opted for the Zuid-Natie Breakbulk site, which provided us not only with a suitable quay with various access routes, but also with logistic support in the form of the right cranes, fork lifts and qualified personnel for the handling of heavy loads in the lab.”

Pieter Jan JORDAENS, Business development & Innovation

OWI-Lab
Next-door decision makers

- Brussels, capital of Belgium and of Europe
- All main Belgian and European authorities are located in Brussels
- Contacts with decision makers are free, easy and pragmatic

In Brussels you can contact the world

Contacts with decision makers are an easy matter, both at Belgian and at European level. All the main Belgian and European authorities are located in Brussels, the capital of Belgium and of Europe and only 45 km away from Antwerp. The Belgian federal ministries and the Flemish regional ministries are located in Brussels. There you will also find the EU administrations, the European Commission and the European Parliament. European industry associations can introduce you to the European bodies. Many international organizations have branch offices in Brussels. Brussels hosts 184 embassies, representative offices and delegations from all over the world, also the highest concentration of diplomatic missions in Europe. Even the most powerful European industrial regions have representations in Brussels, you can contact for trade.

Pragmatic approach for decision-making

In Belgium contacts with decision makers at all levels are free and easy. This applies even more so in Antwerp with its long maritime tradition. Lines of decision-making are short and direct, and matters are dealt with in a pragmatic way. And should you need advice on dealing with officialdom, there are experts to help you at all levels. Besides experts you can rely on a variety of lobbyists. An estimated 3000 lobbying entities have an office in Brussels and target European institutions (the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers). They are mandatorily registered to guarantee transparency.

“...The Antwerp Port Authority recognizes the importance of diplomatic expertise. Hence, my task is both to defend the international interests of the port of Antwerp in matters of strategic importance and to represent the port when receiving delegations and on visits at home and abroad.”

Frank GEERKENS, Port Ambassador
Port of Antwerp
Excellent quality of life for expats

- Excellent quality of life
- International schools
- Rich history but still one of the trendiest cities
- Crossroads of Europe
- Gastronomy, art, fashion and diamonds

Excellent housing & leisure facilities
Antwerp is a great place to live. In or near the old city centre there is a wide range of houses, apartments and lofts available at affordable prices. Just outside the city there is a green belt with a variety of housing options in a countryside setting with a wide range of sports and leisure facilities.

Multicultural environment & international schools
Antwerp offers a truly multicultural environment with an ingrained mix of nationalities. Nearby, there are several international schools (with dedicated school transport) and a good choice of English-speaking clubs and societies. Add to that the fact that the majority of the inhabitants speak more than one language and Antwerp becomes an attractive place to settle. In theatres, concert halls and open-air museums the Latin, Germanic and Anglo-Saxon cultures come together in a true melting pot. Ballet performances and classical, jazz and pop concerts all vie for attention in Antwerp. Did you know that Belgium is the N° 1 place for summer music festivals?

At the crossroad of history and new trends
Antwerp, a bustling international port city, manages to keep in touch with its history while at the same time remaining at the forefront of developments. The entire architectural history of Europe can be discovered here, as well as cutting-edge international developments in culture, fashion and cuisine. Antwerp’s focus on fashion and cultural tourism has paid off, earning it the title of ‘trendiest city’ in many travel articles and guides.

“Antwerp offers everything an international city should have — it is a great place where tradition and innovation go hand in hand.”

Kentaro MORIKAWA, Secretary General
NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE NV
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Antwerp Port Authority is an independent municipal company responsible for day-to-day management of the Antwerp port area. It is the first point of contact for anyone wishing to settle in the Antwerp cluster. The Port Authority is headed by a CEO and has around 1600 employees. Thanks to its accumulated expertise as a pro-active facilitator and stimulator it is able to offer a one-stop-shop approach for potential investors.

FIT (Flanders Investment & Trade) is a Flemish Government agency that offers companies in Belgium and abroad a wide range of specialist services. Companies that are already located in the region can turn to Flanders Investment & Trade for advice and guidance on a variety of themes such as export services, financial support or help with their foreign investment. Companies looking for high-quality suppliers of products and services from Flanders can also turn to Flanders Investment & Trade.

Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship is a government agency, charged with implementing the economic and enterprise policy in Flanders, the Dutch speaking northern part of Belgium. They help companies with the startup of their activities, the growth and continuity of their business, but also with the search for the right location, information on permits, financing, investments in innovation and ecological technologies, and other topics. In short, they confidentially guide entrepreneurs throughout the government landscape.

Foreign companies looking for a new investment in Flanders can count on free, expert advice on all aspects of their investment: financial and tax benefits, help with finding the right location, recruitment of personnel and establishing the right contacts.