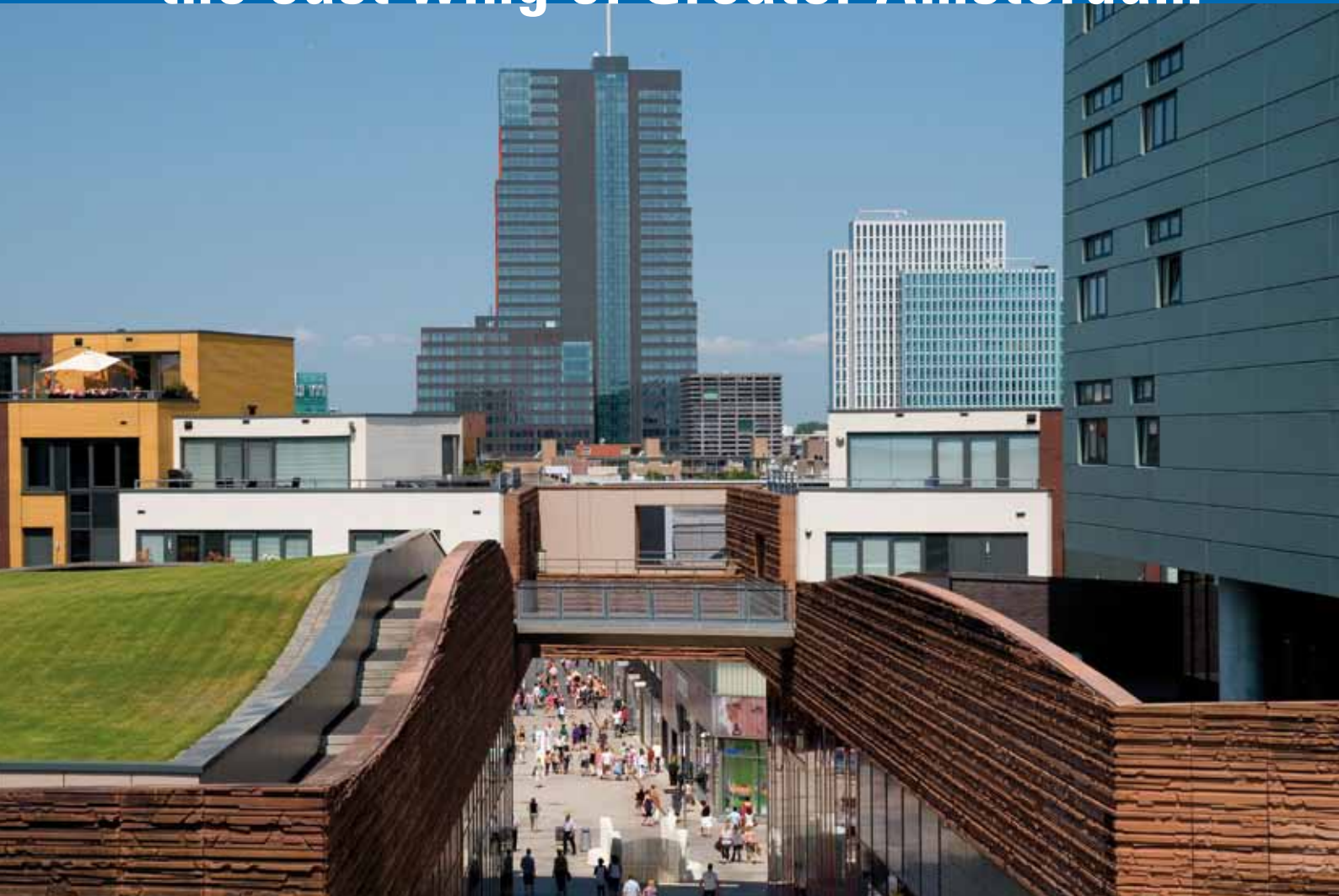


# Flevoland

the east wing of Greater Amsterdam



**Flevoland is located in the very heart of Northwest Europe and is part of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, with all the accompanying benefits. Flevoland is a gateway to the European market with over 350 million consumers in a radius of 800 miles/1,300 km.**

**You may well consider Flevoland the top area to locate your Europe-based business in, as it offers a wide range of opportunities, from access to a vast talented workforce, the right infrastructure and logistics, a modern and beneficial investment climate and an abundance of commercial space, to a high but affordable quality of life with a surprising variety in lifestyle and entertainment.**

**Flevoland, your next step?**



*Photo cover: Almere City center*

**Published by**

**Flevoland Development Agency (OMFL)**

P.O. Box 123  
8200 AC Lelystad  
The Netherlands

Visit us at:

Het Ravelijn 1  
8233 BR Lelystad  
The Netherlands

T +31(0)320 28 67 94

E [info@omfl.nl](mailto:info@omfl.nl)

W [www.omfl.org](http://www.omfl.org)

**Text**

Flevoland Development Agency (OMFL)

**Text editor**

Kitty Hamersma

**Design**

Engelse Verdonk Ontwerpers BNO, Almere  
[www.engelseverdonk.nl](http://www.engelseverdonk.nl)

**Photography**

Juul Baars  
Thijs Quispel  
National Aerospace Laboratory (NLR)  
Feenstra Fotografie, Maarten Feenstra

**Print**

Evers Litho & Druk, Lelystad

# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam

## Talent

### Workforce and international orientation

#### Skilled and flexible workforce

Flevoland offers a highly-educated, young population and excellent education and training facilities. The past 10 years, the province has shown the highest increase in employment in the Netherlands, and its labor force is still rapidly expanding.

Flevoland's quality of life and living facilities attract vast numbers from the top end of the labor market. 60% of the labor force commutes to the surrounding economic areas but is more than willing to accept a similar job in the immediate area, enabling Flevoland to draw from a vast reservoir of well-experienced and highly-educated staff.



R&D Composites Lab at National Aerospace Laboratory (NLR)

### International business environment

An international outlook and receptiveness to foreign investment are core values in Dutch culture, and have yielded a wealth of world-class business partners, who know how to deal with global business challenges in today's economy.

### Education and universities

#### Education and experience count

The Netherlands feature one of the best educated, flexible and motivated workforces in Europe. Dutch professionals are also among the most multilingual in the world.

**Windesheim**, among the larger of the 55 universities of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, is located in Almere and Lelystad. Within a 100 kilometer radius from Flevoland are 14 research universities, all of which offer high-standard education and research. According to QS World University Rankings 2010, 12 of them are listed among the top 200 of the world. Another eight university medical centers are located within this radius as well.

*The most prominent research universities in the Netherlands are:*

- **Wageningen University**, number one in Europe in Life Sciences, Food and Environment and listed in the top 150 of all universities worldwide.
- **University of Twente**, the top in the Netherlands, which impact in technological research, according to a recent survey by the European Union, ranks sixth place in Europe.
- **Leiden University**, with its international reputation in the field of research, which is confirmed by its prominent position in several rankings of universities, both European and worldwide.
- **Tilburg University**, in Europe ranking second in Economics Research, first in Law and sixth in Executive MBA (eleventh worldwide).
- **TU Delft**, a member of the prestigious IDEA league of five leading engineering universities in Europe.



# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam

## Gateway to Europe



### Accessible Flevoland

#### Strategic location

The Netherlands, located in between the three largest economies in Europe, provide a strategic location to serve markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Flevoland is right in the heart of Northwest Europe, a market with over 350 million consumers. In the Netherlands, Flevoland is part of the Greater Amsterdam region, one of the economic centers of Europe. Two of the major European transport hubs, the port of Rotterdam and Schiphol Amsterdam Airport, are on Flevoland's doorstep. These hubs provide daily and in many cases hourly connections to all major economic centers in the world.

### Infrastructure and logistics

#### Superior logistics and technological infrastructure

Flevoland is directly accessible by road, rail, air and water from Brussels, London, Paris, Berlin and other European cities.

The transfer time between Almere (Flevoland) and Schiphol is only half an hour. The port of Rotterdam is the world's third largest seaport, while Schiphol Amsterdam Airport is recognized as one of the major business hubs in Europe. Commuting within Flevoland is attractive, because the traffic congestion problems are negligible compared to those of the well-known economic centers.

The Netherlands are also classified as one of the most 'wired' countries in the world, with a very stable energy and electricity supply. As far as IT is concerned, most of Flevoland has a high-capacity glass fiber network, both for domestic and business use.



European distribution center

# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam

## Quality of life



Batavia Harbor Lelystad

### Flevoland: part of the Greater Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

Flevoland offers a high quality of life, providing an area rich in water where modern towns and villages alternate with areas of natural beauty, gentle farmland and open landscapes.

The vibrant city of Amsterdam, with all its shopping facilities, museums, theatres, cinemas, restaurants, nightlife, universities, sports facilities, parks and hospitals, is on Flevoland's doorstep, which enables its people to enjoy all the benefits.

### Excellent quality of life in Flevoland

The Netherlands have a high standard of living, while the costs of living, housing, education and cultural activities are lower than in most Western European countries. Centrally located in the Netherlands, the modern province of Flevoland is a comfortable place to live. New homes are constructed each year, designed to suit the rapidly changing living trends. Flevoland offers villas at the lakeside, on a golf course or on other attractive locations, as well as a wide variety of family homes and apartments, both for sale and for rent. When moving your business, finding a suitable home for your staff in Flevoland will never be a problem!

### Leisure activities to everyone's taste!

Flevoland offers ample facilities for golf, cycling, walking, riding, yachting, sailing and many other sports.

Among our major tourist attractions are:

- **Walibi World**, an amusement park for the whole family, with over 40 attractions, including thrilling roller-coaster rides.
- 365 days of fashion at **fashion outlet Batavia City**, with 250 international brands on 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- **UNESCO World heritage site Schokland** symbolizes the heroic, age-old struggle of the Dutch against the encroaching waters.
- A unique area of 6,000 hectares of wetlands, water and untamed grassy plains can be found at **Oostvaardersplassen**, renowned as a bird sanctuary, but also containing other wildlife.
- Buildings and residential sections with **architectural appeal**, designed by famous architects such as Rem Koolhaas.



Wildlife at Oostvaardersplassen

## Investment climate

### Economic growth

#### **Amsterdam Metropolitan Area is host to world class players in the financial industry**

No city in the world can rival our neighbor Amsterdam for its rich financial tradition. The city is an historically innovative financial center. The presence of such a large financial industry has created an extensive support industry and almost all leading accountancy, law, management consultancy and ICT companies have offices in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area. Furthermore, an extremely powerful network of creative businesses, from advertising agencies to architects, is to be found there.

Together, they account for an enormous financial throughput, using Amsterdam above all as a financial knowledge center and tax hub.

From 1940 to 1970, about 150,000 hectares of land were reclaimed from the sea and became the province of Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam. Since then, over 400,000 people have lived happily on what used to be the bottom of the Zuiderzee, protected by an excellent and reliable system of dikes.

Flevoland's economy is expanding rapidly. In 25 years, the total number of businesses has almost tripled to well over 32,000. Almost 400 of the companies in Flevoland are part of a multinational organization. They predominantly come from the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France, Taiwan and South-Korea.

Flevoland is one of the fastest growing regions in Europe. Over the past decade, its economy has expanded by an impressive 70%. Even in economic harsh times, Flevoland's economy has never stopped showing a positive growth in real terms.

#### *Quote of the manager of Giant:*

**“The great advantages of having a site in Flevoland, are the room for establishment and expansion, short lines of communication with local government and the central location in terms of transport and logistics”**

### Expanding Flevoland

#### **Some facts and figures**

- In general, property rates in Flevoland are some 50% lower than those in the center of nearby Amsterdam.
- In only twenty-five years, the number of jobs tripled.
- The number of companies has grown more than 40% during the past few years.
- Each year, over 3,000 people decide to start their own business, underlining the dynamic economic conditions in our region.
- A fair number of the companies that have settled in Flevoland, originally come from the United States. Their arrival created over 2,000 full time jobs.

For new companies, Flevoland currently has over 600 hectares of land on offer, in business parks and on similar locations, of which 300 hectares are readily available, and over 270,000 m<sup>2</sup> of commercial property developments and some 160,000 m<sup>2</sup> of office space as well.

Each year, Flevoland allocates double digit numbers of business sites to companies, while in recent years, high numbers of office space have been sold or rented annually.

#### **Sustainable Flevoland: Europe's forerunner in renewable energy**

Sustainability is one of the key words in the Flevoland development policy. Its economic growth goes hand-in-hand with our planet's welfare.

Flevoland offers space and support for a number of initiatives in renewable energy or sustainable production methods. Flevoland is self-supporting for 60% of its total demand for energy, which comes from renewable sources. For many of Flevoland's companies, acting and working in a responsible way are integral parts of their business activities.

#### **Wind energy**

Wind turbines are characteristic of Flevoland, and they yield sustainable energy. Wind makes a considerable contribution to Flevoland's economy, including employment for various businesses and economic growth.



## Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam



*Windturbine park Flevoland*

Flevoland has over 600 wind turbines generating over 650 Mw, which is one-third of the total wind energy capacity in the Netherlands. Being unique in this field, Flevoland is the leading province in the Netherlands.

### **Bio-energy and renewable resources**

Flevoland is the place to be for the development of bio-energy and green raw materials. We strongly believe that bio-energy will play an important role in creating sustainable energy supplies and will be a prominent source of income for the agricultural sector. ACRRES, the application center for renewable resources, is located in Lelystad. One of ACRRES' main fields of activity is the valorization of biomass.

The focus in bio-energy and renewable resources is on innovation, production and distribution of bio-gas, together with high-tech refining of residual waste streams and bio-refining.

In this perspective, Flevoland attracts and is a place where industry suppliers and consumers of residual waste streams meet and grow towards a robust branch of industry.

### **Solar energy**

One of the largest solar collector fields in the world is located in Flevoland. This Sun Island contains over 520 solar panels and stretches out over 7,000 sq meters. The solar collectors in combination with district heating reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 50% compared to gas-fired heating.

### **Research & Development**

Flevoland has a vibrant and innovative business climate. Research shows that over 40% of its companies is actively involved in innovation, particularly in new services and products.

During the last few years, Flevoland's businesses filed over 180 patent applications.

For its efforts in the area of innovation, Flevoland's businesses are rewarded with an annual fiscal program of more than 30 million Euro (US\$ 40 million) by the Dutch fiscal authority.

# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam



*High tech production*

The regional authority also actively stimulates innovation with the program for Technological and Environmental Innovation (TMI).

Flevoland has an impressive number of leading facilities for Research and Development. Many of these institutes are worldwide renowned. They actively encourage spin-offs and support the use of their advanced technologies by other companies. These businesses are often located in dedicated business parks in the direct vicinity of the R&D facility.

*We can distinguish three major Research & Development fields in Flevoland:*

1. Renewable energy
2. Aerospace
3. Life Sciences human, animal and green plus agrifood

The main Research & Development facilities in Flevoland are:

- Geomatics Business Park (GBP)
- National Aerospace Laboratory (NLR)
- Structures Technology for Composites (NLR)
- The German-Dutch Wind Tunnels (DNW)
- University of Wageningen (WUR)
- Central Veterinary Institute (CVI)
- Animal Science Group/Wageningen University (ASG)
- Dutch General Inspection for agricultural seeds and seed potatoes (NAK)

## **Relationship with China**

Since 1999, there is an official economic relationship between the province of Flevoland and the province of Zhejiang in China.

The Flevoland Development Agency was present at and presented itself during the World Expo in Shanghai.



# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam

It signed two Memories of Understanding (MOU's) in Hangzhou: one with the "Department of Science and Technology" and the other with the "Department for Commerce" of the province of Zhejiang.

## Topics of industry

### Foreign companies in Flevoland

Examples of companies that have settled in Flevoland are:

Giant, Yakult, Mitsubishi-Caterpillar Forklift Europe, LG Electronics, Geesink Norba, Valspar, Poppers Senco, IBM, McCain Foods, Intersnack, Cablesan, Cascade, Getronics, Staples, Summit, Arizona Chemical, Johnson and Johnson consumer.

The Flevoland environment has proven to be extremely attractive to various industries, among which engineering including aerospace & composites, life sciences, agrifood & renewable energy, ICT and electronic components and geomatics.

### 1. Engineering

- mechanical engineering
- aerospace
- electrical engineering
- composites engineering
- machinery and tools

Flevoland has a strong cluster of companies specialized in composites: super-strong, lightweight compositions of fibers and resins. The development of new materials and applications is their core business. An example of this new technology is the production of parts of the Joint Strike Fighter, where the use of composites can lead to a significant reduction in the weight of these fighter planes.

### 2. Life Sciences

Due to the presence of the Central Veterinary Institute and strong connections with nearby academic centers Amsterdam, Utrecht and Wageningen, Flevoland is a crossover in the Dutch bioregion connecting specialized local hotspots and disciplines and facilitating crossovers between academic centers and SMEs and between PPSs like Immuno Valley and Food Valley.



Donkervoort sportscar manufacturer Lelystad

# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam



*Agrifood*

### **3. Agrifood and renewable energy**

Flevoland offers space for and support to a number of initiatives on renewable energy or sustainable production methods.

Wind energy, bio-energy and solar energy are generated on a large scale in this province, which, as a result, is 60% self-supporting in its total demand for energy. Approximately 65% of Flevoland is still dedicated to agriculture. Here, you'll find some of the largest and most efficient farms in Europe. The region also has comprehensive areas for high-quality horticulture, including large greenhouses, and accommodates a major part of the famous Dutch bulbs industry. Many institutes and businesses have developed specific know-how through close cooperation with a number of R&D facilities specialized in various aspects of agribusiness.

### **4. ICT**

Flevoland has areas of expertise in the field of ICT and software and hosts many companies in the development and sales of:

- hardware
- software
- ICT services
- datacenters

### **5. Electronic components**

A broad range of companies in the field of assembly and sales of electronic components and electronic equipment are established in Flevoland.

### **6. Geomatics**

Flevoland is one of the main centers in Europe for geomatics/sensor technology, the measurement and management of the planet from space. The National Institute for Aerospace is one of the most advanced institutions in this field of expertise in the world. Adjacent to the institute is the Geomatics Business Park, a concentration of businesses and organizations focused on developing and marketing innovative products and services based on remote-sensing data and similar technologies.

# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam

## Why settle in Flevoland?

Research shows, whenever a business intends to expand abroad, they look for an environment that offers the very best possibilities.

Flevoland offers:

- **An incomparable source of talent and a multilingual, internationally-orientated workforce**
- **Gateway to the European market where all types of transport (road, rail, air and water) and connections to the inland can be found**
- **An attractive investment climate at modest cost, with a wide range of R&D activities, universities and business activities**
- **A vibrant, high-quality life on the doorstep of Amsterdam**
- **An abundance of space in new to be developed areas, ready and waiting for tailor-made development.**



*Architecture in Almere*



# Flevoland, the east wing of Greater Amsterdam

## Your gateway to Europe?



Flevoland Development Agency



The Flevoland Development Agency (OMFL) supports international entrepreneurs who have plans for expansion and investments in the Netherlands/Flevoland and helps the Flevoland-region to attract foreign investors. OMFL is a regional partner of the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA), an operational unit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.



PROVINCE OF FLEVOLAND

OMFL is executory partner of the Province of Flevoland.

[www.omfl.org](http://www.omfl.org)