



A cold front is approaching Wisbech

Cold store set for 2010 opening

Partner Logistics is a Logistics service provider, specialising in storage solutions. The changing needs of their customers requires the Company to adapt their logistic processes and to continuously strive for further improvements in quality and costs. In a short period Partner Logistics has become an important player on the market for storage of deep frozen products. In 1998 Partner Logistics was able to convince a major producer of deep frozen potato products of its Design Build Operate concept, resulting in the first cold store (-22°C) being built in Bergen op Zoom (NL) with a storage capacity of 65,000 pallets. This opened in the year 2001.

This was followed shortly afterwards by a second cold store based on the same design for a producer of frozen vegetables. This highly automated warehouse based in Waalwijk (NL) offers 33,000 pallet positions. There are now ten warehouses in operation supporting an even larger customer base. For some of their existing customers Partner Logistics are developing further new operations.

As a logistic service provider Partner Logistics is active in various market segments with a focus on conditioned storage of food products. Currently, a site is being constructed in Wisbech, which will provide a high bay, clad rack, deep freeze warehouse with expedition building and administrative offices. The warehouse is highly automated with

automatic pallet picking from high bay racking and conveying to the dispatch bays.

Built on a green field site, the new buildings total 19,553sq m and are arranged over two- and three-storeys. Due to the poor ground conditions and high intensity loading, a suspended floor slab and piled foundations were required.

Dense timber blocks were included within the design to allow transfer of the high rack loads, but also maintain the integrity of the under floor slab.

To the interior the high bay warehouse is densely packed with pallet racking and is serviced by five cranes that run along the length of the building.

Known as the Expedition building, it contains conveyors at ground floor level that automatically feed pallets to the dispatch bays. There are 12 air-locked dispatch bays, each with dock levellers, and three incoming bays which receive special trailers from a nearby food producer. These trailers incorporate conveyors which match the conveyor systems at both the food producer and at the cold store.

The plant room contains all of the refrigeration and oxygen reduction plant, as well as the switch gear for the automated handling systems. Oxygen reduction is used as a fire suppressant in the high bay warehouse, providing an environment where combustion cannot take place. A dry system is also used in the Expedition building.

Main Contractor on this project is a Dutch Company called B-Built. B-Built are managing the construction process with contract being let directly for the piling, groundworks, steelwork, envelope and building services. Process related contracts for racking, refrigeration, automation and specialist insulation are being let directly by Partner Logistics.

The architectural design has been carried out by Royal Haskoning with the help of a specialist sub-contractor, Arctica.

Arctica was set up in 2001 to provide architectural design and management expertise within the commercial and industrial sectors.

The Practice is strongly focused on "work place projects", and has a pro-active culture which includes a passion for being thorough, accurate and well managed.

Since 2006, resulting from the Company's extensive experience in designing buildings for food manufacturing facilities, Arctica has offered process engineering consultancy, as well as architectural consultancy.

Approximately half of Arctica's commissions are architectural, a quarter process engineering and a quarter encompass both. Currently Arctica is working on offices, cold stores, heavy engineering facilities, waste to energy plants, food manufacturing, warehousing and leisure facilities.

Completion of this €44M project is currently on schedule for March 2010.