

# German Minister visits The Netherlands

*After visiting the Holland High Tech stand in the Technology hall of the Hannover Messe last April, it didn't take him long to decide to get to know The Netherlands better. Mr Ralph Christoffers, Minister for Economy, Innovation and European Affairs of the German state of Brandenburg, asked Holland High Tech to prepare a program on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May as part of a three days tour through our industrial landscape.*

By Jos van Erp

## Holland High Tech

High Tech Solutions for Global Challenges

### Existing cooperation

This particular afternoon was hosted by the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering of the TU Delft. This was a perfect location because of the fact that an existing program of cooperation between The Netherlands and Brandenburg has been established only last October in the field of gasturbine technology. In this program several professors and scientific researchers of the TU Delft, Berlin and Cottbus are involved. Prof. Dr. Ing. Georg Eitelberg, Professor of Experimental Aerodynamics, welcomed the Minister and his staff on behalf of the Dutch delegation.



*Dr Sadowski: Open innovation*

### A strong relationship

To introduce Dutch high-tech industry to Mr Christoffers, Holland High Tech had invited Dr Bert Sadowski who is a professor of Innovation Science at the TU Eindhoven. His

field of research is –among others- about open innovation processes. He explained the high-tech region of Eindhoven and proved that The Netherlands are strong in co-design and co-development. A strong relationship between system integrators like ASML and Philips and their suppliers is a crucial condition to achieve the high standards in world wide niche markets which characterises Dutch industry. Absence of hierarchy is one of the cultural aspects which are highly appreciated by international knowledge workers. This was his bridge to the presentation by two German students of The Maastricht University.



*An enthusiastic team of students among whom Johanna Schneider (2<sup>th</sup>) and Anja Schoumackers (4<sup>th</sup>)*

### Hospitality

Miss Johanna Schneider and Miss Anja Schoumackers form part of a team of students of the masters program “Management of Learning” of the Maastricht University which is studying the intercultural aspects of personal development of international

knowledge workers in various knowledge regions in the Northwest of Europe. In cooperation with Holland High Tech they compared The Netherlands to several other countries among whom Germany. The Minister confirmed that he considers this issue to be very important and that, with no doubt, elements like social hospitality should be part of this kind of research as well.



*Mr Christoffers: Opportunities*

### **Efforts of TSB**

Mrs Anne Marie Hey, Managing director of DGTA –Dutch Gasturbine Association- addressed to the Minister and presented the characteristics of the DGTA members. DGTA has been established in 1981 and is representing companies in the field of gasturbine technology both related to aircraft propulsion and power generation. In The Netherlands about 3.000 FTE are directly working in the field of gasturbine technology. Over 90 companies with a turn over of €1.5 billion are involved. She emphasized the fact that the cooperation between DGTA and “the big five” of Berlin-Brandenburg is a result of the efforts of TSB (Technologie Stiftung Berlin) represented at the meeting by Mr. Valentin Konrad, who is innovation manager at TSB.



*Mrs Hey and Mr Konrad: efforts of TSB*

### **Maximum profit**



*Meeting in an informal setting*

Mrs Hey then gave the floor to Prof. Ir. Jos van Buijtenen who is a retired, but still very active, professor of Gasturbines, Propulsion and Energy Conversion and strongly related to DGTA and the TU Delft. He compared the Dutch gasturbine landscape with the Brandenburg characteristics and found more similarities than differences. He furthermore explained how DGTA and the big five started to define common research and innovation fields like small gasturbines, flexibility and smart maintenance. He concluded that strong cooperation between both countries in these research fields has only just started and now should be developed on a European scale to have all stakeholders get the maximum profit out of the efforts.





*Mr Van Bujtenen and Mr Eitelberg: common research and innovation*

### **Fruitful**

The Minister asked several searching questions to the specialists involved in the program to get even more insight in the various possibilities of cooperation between The Netherlands and Brandenburg. He stated that he would do whatever he could to support the activities which were discussed to become even more fruitful. Furthermore he confirmed that a close cooperation between the TU Delft and the TU Cottbus and TU Berlin, in various fields of research and internships, would be a logical result of this meeting.

### **Bye bye**

What started as a formal visit to Holland High Tech at the Hannover Messe has lead to an informal but informative visit to The Netherlands at the TU Delft. We specially

thank Dr Arvind Roa who took care of all the necessary arrangements at location to make this possible. At the same time we are curious to know how the Minister appreciated the continuation of his visit program. Don't worry. We will ask our colleagues of KMU and FME!



*Dr Arvind Gangoli Rao facilitated the meeting. An international knowledge worker and most promising assistant professor at the same time*

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