

# Port of Zeebrugge sets course for innovation

## FUTURE PROOF THANKS TO PRIVATE 5G NETWORK

*The port of Zeebrugge has always had an always-on mentality with permanent services. In the past decades it has grown into a versatile and flexible port that supports port customers and their wide range of activities. All this with a focus on innovation and sustainability.*

### BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL OPERATORS

The port of Zeebrugge was inaugurated more than 100 years ago. Today it is a global port that is still working on accessibility by using innovation and technology. This vast, complex domain where traditional operators cannot provide connectivity was just right for Citymesh.

“We were looking for a solution to solve our connectivity problems within the port area. Various parts of the port were very difficult to provide with wireless connectivity. Thanks to the 5G network there is a good connection with the most extensive geographic parts, says Tom Hautekiet, CEO of Port of Zeebrugge.” Thanks to the private network, the port can guarantee business-critical communication and the data remains securely stored on its own network.

### THE PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE AS FACILITATOR

Your own private network offers many new possibilities. In this way, the port can operate its network for external users. “With our vision for the future, we as a port authority want to serve as a facilitator of a private 5G network for all port companies that want to focus on innovation,” emphasizes Tom Hautekiet. In this context, Citymesh manages and monitors the network, while the port of Zeebrugge works as a “micro-operator” for its port customers.



The companies in the port use the **private 5G network** for dispatching, connectivity to straddle carriers, automated vehicles (AGV), track & trace systems and critical communication. Emergency services and drones, in turn, can also offer guaranteed communication in otherwise difficult to reach places.

### CONTINUE TO INNOVATE, CONTINUE TO GROW

With the realization of this 5G network, innovation and automation are moving up a gear. The Citymesh network guarantees efficient, fast and optimal connectivity. “The contact and cooperation with Citymesh went smoothly. The team actively sought solutions together with us. The flexibility of the company and its employees ensures a good collaboration.”

Tackling challenges is also crucial to guarantee the growth of the port, Tom Hautekiet emphasizes. "Each obstacle is tackled individually, without losing sight of the broader context. The more intensive use of 5G offers opportunities to constantly evaluate and fine-tune the private network where necessary. Here, too, we can always rely on Citymesh' knowledge and in turn, they respond quickly".

## SOLUTIONS

- ▶ (Mobile) Private Networks: 5G network
- ▶ IoT-network
- ▶ three pillars of the Port of Zeebrugge
  - » Clean port: focus on measuring the air quality in the port, so that, for example, a polluting ship can be traced immediately
  - » Safety port: sensors and cameras can easily be installed and connected to the network so the data is safely stored on the private network
  - » Digital twin: a virtual copy of the port that displays real-time changes within the port, connect to the 5G network

