

PRESS RELEASE

World first innovative container in Rotterdam Cargoshell: cleaner (less CO₂), more efficient and safer

Rotterdam, 23 June 2009 - On 29 June 2009, the official presentation of a whole new container concept will take place in the Rotterdam Cruise Terminal: **Cargoshell**. The International Port of Rotterdam has the world first of this interesting new container concept.

This presentation will also take place in the presence of Mister Lucas Bolsius, chairman of Harbor & Finances of the municipality of Rotterdam, and Mister Pieter van Essen, member of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative management team on behalf of the Port installations, among others.

Based on an idea of entrepreneur René Giesbers, an innovative container has been developed, which can be integrated in the current, standardized freight chain. **Cargoshell**, a composite folding container, makes the world transportation system more environmentally friendly (the CO₂ reduction in particular is significant) and lowers the costs pertaining to business economics.

Containerization

Containerization is one of the most important drivers of the global economy. Standardized containerization has existed for over fifty years. The steel container has hardly evolved in that half century, while the economy and environment now set different requirements than decades ago. This fact got Rotterdam-based entrepreneur René Giesbers thinking. He managed to enthuse a team and two years after his first inspiration, there is a full-scale working prototype.

The future of containerization: **Cargoshell**

While preserving the successful qualities of the current container, **Cargoshell** offers a number of crucial innovations in terms of CO₂ reduction, storage and transportation of empty containers, safety and traceability.

CO₂-reduction

The current container is made of steel. Millions of new containers are produced every year. A lot of CO₂ is released during the production of these containers.

By replacing most of the steel of the container with composite, an important CO₂ reduction can be realized. Additional advantages of composite include its resistance to corrosion even while being exposed to open air and seawater, and its ability to be repaired in a more environmentally friendly way.

Lowering of costs pertaining to business economics

A second important innovation of **Cargoshell** is the ability to fold the container. One person can do the folding and unfolding, without the need for an auxiliary motor nor separate parts in the container. The volume of a folded **Cargoshell** is 1/4th of that of a traditional steel container. This allows to save as much as 75% of precious storage space.

Folded containers can also be transported more efficiently: billions are lost every year by transporting air (empty containers). The folding **Cargoshell** lowers the costs considerably, saves fuel and limits the CO₂ emissions.

Safety and traceability

Through the choice of materials, **Cargoshell** also offers other innovations concerning tracking & tracing, poisonous gas detection, hygiene, load monitoring and insulation possibilities.

The future

A full-scale working prototype, protected by different patents, proves that René Giesbers' idea is feasible. However, the **Cargoshell** is not yet ready for production. The challenge to realize this scale-up now lies with the sector, the industry, the government and the financial parties. They will need to invest and stimulate to take the step from the initial planning and development phase towards large-scale production. Obtaining a green energy label is a first goal.

It is crucially important to convince a naturally conservative sector of the need to innovate and to provide a real contribution to CO₂ reduction.

More information: [www.cargoshell .com](http://www.cargoshell.com)