

Press Release

ROCKWOOL®
BRANDVEILIGE ISOLATIE

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Rockwool dedicates itself to low-energy buildings

***Koplopers PeGO Innovatie* (“Leaders in PeGO innovation”) join forces**

On 5th February 2009 eleven leading organisations – including Rockwool Benelux BV, the market leader in stone wool insulation solutions – founded the *Koplopers PeGO Innovatie Platform*, ‘leaders in energy-efficient buildings’. Apart from Rockwool, the members of the Platform are Koninklijke BAM Groep NV, Eneco Holding NV, the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands, GTI NV, Nefit BV, Nuon NV, Philips Lighting BV, Redenko BV, Saint-Gobain Isover Benelux BV and TNO Construction & Groundwork. The objective of the Platform, the membership of which is also open to other organisations, is to make a substantial and innovative contribution to a reduction in the energy consumption in the built environment. The eleven members intend to achieve this objective by founding an implementation agency in which all interested parties will participate, in consultation with the ministries for economic affairs and for housing & environment. The *Koplopers PeGO Innovatie Platform* stems from the PeGO Innovation Working Group chaired by Mr Pieter Hameetman.

In 2007, the *Platform energietransitie Gebouwde Omgeving* (“Platform for the energy transition in built-up areas”, PeGO), a collaboration between companies, the authorities, knowledge institutes and organised interest groups, formulated ambitious targets for the phased reduction of energy consumption in the built environment. Pursuant to these targets the PeGO shall strive to achieve completely energy-neutral new buildings by 2020 and a 50% reduction in the energy consumption of existing buildings by 2030. The Platform intends to achieve these targets by the wide-scale use of sustainable energy and innovative solutions for energy savings.

Our future: innovative, energy-neutral buildings

Energy-neutral new buildings require virtually no fossil fuels due to the implementation of measures such as extremely efficient envelope insulation. In the future, innovative technologies, such as building concepts based on maximum use of natural sunlight, will be used to heat new buildings. In addition, the implementation of a wide range of measures will also reduce their electricity consumption. Comparable reductions in the energy consumption of existing buildings are also required. These can in part be achieved by the implementation of the same measures used in new buildings, such as good envelope insulation and passive level renovations.

Pieter Hartog, Managing Director of Rockwool Benelux, sees an important duty for both the Platform and his company. “Rockwool fully endorses the Platform’s targets: we also endeavour to achieve sustainability for our surroundings and our company. I am convinced that our envelope-insulation knowledge and experience will enable us to make a fundamental contribution to a reduction in the energy demand of built-up areas, since the most sustainable form of energy is saved energy. Moreover the Platform offers us a unique opportunity to work together in tackling the challenge of energy neutrality.”

Rockwool's passive projects

Rockwool Benelux is closely involved in the construction of what are referred to as "passive houses" in a new development project being carried out by Woningcorporatie Aramis in Roosendaal (De Kroeven) and a renovation project being carried out by BAM Woningbouw Volker Bouwmaatschappij in Rotterdam (Noordereiland). Passive houses distinguish themselves by their comfortable and healthy indoor climate in combination with their extremely low energy consumption. The heating needs of these homes are almost seventy percent less than conventional homes, and the primary energy consumption is thirty percent lower.

The Roosendaal project will achieve these savings by the use of a timber-frame structure with an optimally insulated envelope – without thermal bridges –, draught-proof doors and windows with triple glazing, and air heating. The Rotterdam project, where a monumental housing block is to be converted into low-energy housing, has selected the "box-in-home" principle to retain authentic features such as the marvellous detailing of the façades. Energy is saved by the extremely effective insulation of the floors, walls and ceilings, triple glazing, draught elimination, sun blinds, passively pre-heated ventilation, hot water heated by sustainable energy, and environmentally-friendly domestic appliances.

More information is available at: <http://www.passiefhuis-roosendaal.nl/sw72945.asp> and <http://www1.rockwool.nl/sw74313.asp>

About Rockwool

The Rockwool Group is the global market leader in stone wool products. As a leading player in the market for insulation products Rockwool supplies sustainable solutions for energy-efficient and fire-resistant buildings with optimum sound insulation and climate-control properties. The Rockwool Group also offers solutions in a wide variety of sectors including industry, greenhouse industry, and the petrochemical and shipbuilding industries.

The Rockwool Group, incorporated in 1909, has over 20 manufacturing facilities in Europe, Asia and North America. The Group, which employs more than 8,500 people, generated a turnover of €1.8 billion in 2007. The head office is located in Hedehusene (Denmark). The Rockwool Group, trading under the name of Rockwool International A/S, is a publicly listed company on the Copenhagen Stock exchange.

Rockwool Benelux, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rockwool International A/S, is responsible for the production, marketing and sales operations in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Rockwool Benelux, which employs about 1,200 people, generated a turnover of 280 million euros in 2007. Rockwool Benelux' head office is based in Roermond, the Netherlands.

More information is available at www.rockwool.com

For more information and visual material:

www.creatieve-energie.nl and www.naarenergieneutraal.nl (in Dutch)

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