

M4H

ROTTERDAM



ROTTERDAM MAKERS DISTRICT IS A VIBRANT PORT CITY AREA IN TRANSFORMATION, WITH A VARIETY OF LIVING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENTS. A PLACE FOR PIONEERING, CREATING AND DEVELOPMENT.

# ROTTERDAM MAKERS DISTRICT



RDM

ROTTERDAM





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# CITY PORTS: AREA FOR INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



Smog Free Tower by Daan Roosegaarde, M4H

The Rotterdam Makers District is the ultimate location for the innovative manufacturing industry. This is where, in practice, the transition is made to the new economy. It's where young businesses grow into large, established enterprises and young people are introduced to technology. It's where new technology is not only invented, but also tested and applied. Innovative living-working environments are taking shape here. This makes the district a testing ground and showcase for the circular economy of city and port.



Robotisation: Dutch Drone Company, RDM

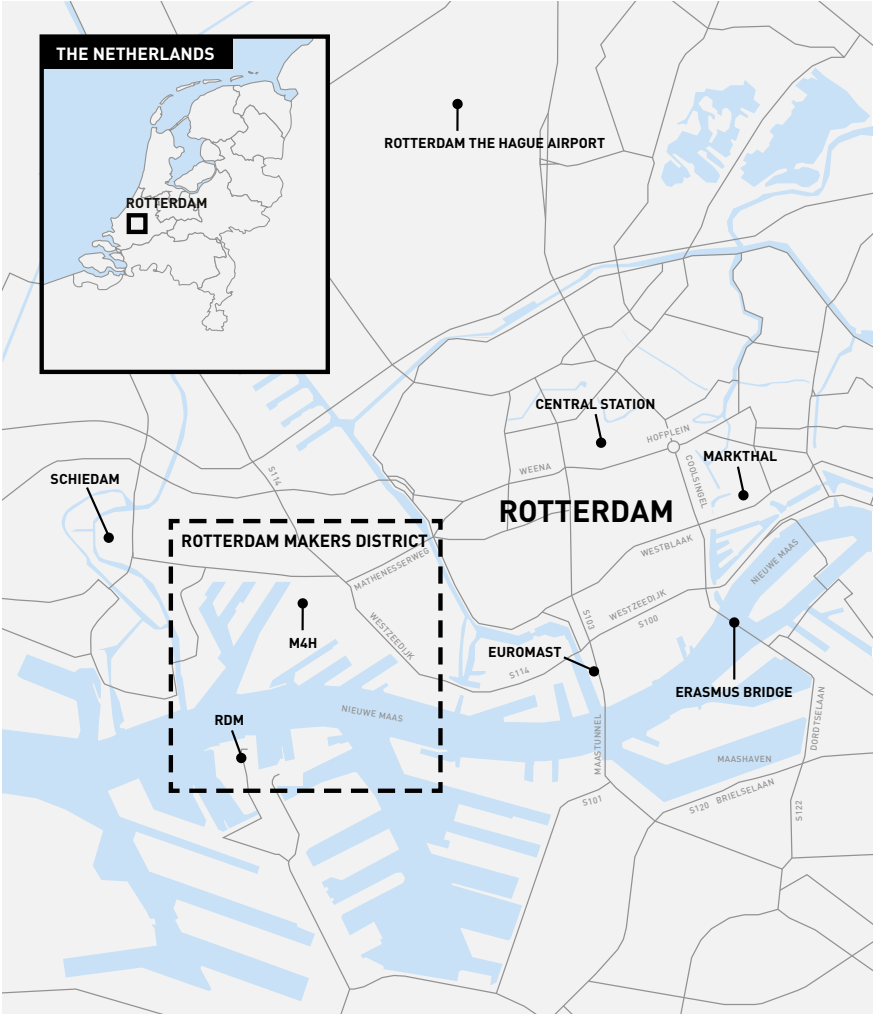
## A testing ground and showcase for the circular economy of city and port

The Rotterdam Makers District is a joint development by the Municipality and the Rotterdam Port Authority. The success of RDM Rotterdam sets the tone. At this former shipping wharf educational institutions and dozens of businesses are actively involved in the port-related manufacturing industry. The development of the second zone is in full swing: M4H Rotterdam. Its former port buildings and industrial estates provide premises for creative and innovative entrepreneurs. There are excellent opportunities for versatile living-working environments.

The atmosphere is maritime, yet also urban. The inspiration can be found on the street. There is plenty to experience. Visitors flock to spectacular and remarkable places, catering establishments and events. Festivals are putting the area on the map. Fans will discover interesting and exciting residential options.

Motivated students, jobseekers and budding entrepreneurs are taught new skills, start their business or find work here. Growing businesses create jobs for the full spectrum of the working population.

Entrepreneurs inspire and boost one another. They produce innovations that attract international interest and prove themselves at home and abroad, such as in the off-shore and energy sector. Inventions from the Rotterdam Makers District bring ports and cities all over the world closer to their circular future.



## KEY TECHNOLOGY OF THE NEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

The emergence of the new economy goes hand in hand with three types of key technology:

- > **Additive manufacturing** (for example 3D printing) is currently used extensively in prototyping, but in the future it will be applied more broadly in assembly lines.
- > **Robotisation** makes it economically advantageous to manufacture near sales markets, instead of at great distances in low-wage countries.
- > **Material Science** develops materials that make further steps in digitisation and circularity possible.

These technologies are mutually reinforcing. They make it possible to manufacture in a highly specialised and cost-efficient manner.

## MARITIME AND INDUSTRIAL PAST

The Rotterdam Makers District is part of the city, but the port is never far away. RDM was a famous shipyard. Entrepreneurs and educational institutions gratefully make use of the halls and offices from its illustrious era. The juice cluster in M4H is very much alive and kicking. The fruit business moves to terminals at the southern part of the port, offering more space for container storage. Fossil fuel generation (gas factory, coal-fired power plant) had already left the area. Departed companies left behind sites, quays and jetties with a large variety of port buildings. A fantastic setting for the innovative manufacturing industry and unique living-working environments.



Rotterdam Makers District on both sides of the river



# A STRONG REGIONAL INNOVATION NETWORK

Rotterdam has a great deal to offer when it comes to innovation. The region has a wealth of young and creative talent and is home to renowned knowledge centres. With the largest port in Europe and headquarters of multinationals within its perimeter, clients and customers are close at hand. There is a culture of entrepreneurship, of ‘rolling up your sleeves and getting the job done’.

Companies, investors, knowledge institutions and public parties work together in a single regional, ‘innovation ecosystem’. This brings together talent, capital and knowledge. Consequently, ideas quickly develop into socially relevant and commercially attractive innovations.

As an innovation hub the Rotterdam Makers District occupies its own, distinctive position, precisely where the port and city converge. This produces the authentic, atmospheric environment in which makers feel right at home. With space for testing & prototyping, as well as application and production, the area specifically serves the innovative manufacturing industry.

## Newcomers soon find their way

The Rotterdam Makers District has become home to a community of successful and innovative entrepreneurs, integrated in the regional innovation ecosystem. The area has various locations where businesses and knowledge institutions meet and present their activities and results. Entrepreneurs use collective facilities, including 3D printers, lasers and testing rooms such as the Aqualab.

Businesses that settle here can count on red carpet treatment. The Municipality, the Port Authority and their partners facilitate, provide guidance and connect. This means that newcomers soon find their way in the regional innovation networks. They easily make contact with, for example, investors, innovation funds, and educational and knowledge institutions.



## SUPPORT FOR START-UPS

A start-up in the Rotterdam Makers District obtains access to support when the company is founded. The Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC) offers premises for growing and innovative businesses during their start-up phase, with all the facilities they need. Together they form a community that invites them to cooperate and provide mutual inspiration. At Venture Café young entrepreneurs make contact with established businesses, investors and training institutions. The Erasmus Center for Entrepreneurship (ECE), based at M4H, promotes entrepreneurship in the region and beyond, and fulfils the position of an innovation platform. PortXL provides incentive programmes specifically for start-ups in port areas. Port XL is also based at M4H.

## COOPERATION WITH KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Students constitute an important potential workforce in the innovation ecosystem. RDM Rotterdam proves the added value of a close connection between education and the business community on a daily basis. In addition to dozens of companies, three educational institutions are located here with a total of 1,200 students: Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Techniek College and the Shipping and Transport College. M4H Rotterdam is home to the Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship, which is linked to Erasmus University. Hundreds of students have learned their entrepreneurship and founded their business here.





# DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT M4H ROTTERDAM



There is no well-defined end point in a dynamic and comprehensive development like that of M4H. The area is as large as the city centre of Rotterdam! Regional development follows trends and developments. There is always room for good ideas that are in line with the ambitions.

The juice cluster is still based in the east. The western section will offer living-working areas, ranging from densely urban to more relaxed options. The zone in between forms the core of M4H, offering space for both small and large manufacturing businesses in the centre of the area. There will be a dense urban area around Marconiplein with offices, housing, catering establishments and urban facilities.



## MULTIMODAL ACCESS

RDM is easily accessible by water bus and water taxi from the centre of Rotterdam. The water taxi also stops at M4H. Moreover, Marconiplein provides M4H with a public transport hub within the perimeter. It offers fast and frequent underground and tram connections with Rotterdam Central and Schiedam Centre train stations, which are also easily accessible by bike. These urban connections link the Rotterdam Makers District to international traffic networks: Rotterdam The Hague Airport and the high speed train network. Car traffic can access the Rotterdam ring road in just a few minutes, from which all arterial roads can be accessed with ease.





Citrus auction house, M4H

**Monuments form new focal points**

A diverse space requirement is characteristic of the innovative manufacturing industry. This diversity is reflected in regional development. The legacy of the fruit port and the energy cluster consists of different generations of company buildings; some are more practical, others characteristic and monumental. Elsewhere there is plenty of space for new constructions. M4H also allows an impressive variation of living-working environments to be achieved. From dynamic to more secluded, in higher and lower densities and for different target groups.

Monuments form new focal points. The Ferro site and the former Citrus auction house will be genuine ‘places to be’. Ferro with its gas holder and melting shop is an icon of the disappearing fossil fuel economy. The Citrus

auction house is a reference to the fruit trade and marks the northern entrance. Both complexes will be given a key role in the Rotterdam Makers District.

Basins, piers and port infrastructure will be preserved and restored where necessary. The pier heads will become fascinating recreational areas. In a number of places it is possible to experiment with new technology in the public space. The result is an inspiring working-living environment and an increasingly surprising entourage.

The different parts of M4H vary in terms of ambiance and offer distinctive possibilities in line with RDM. The atmosphere is electric. In the near future, everywhere people are working to create a circular and sustainable future: innovation is visible and tangible!

**CONNECTION TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

M4H Rotterdam borders the lively city districts of Bospolder-Tussendijken, Spangen, Oud-Mathenesse and Schiedam-Oost. It is close to the historic centres of Delfshaven and Schiedam. RDM Rotterdam borders the garden village of Heijplaat. Many entrepreneurs believe in the value of a strong link to these residential centres. They conduct business on an international playing field, but are closely involved in their home base. There is increasing contact, such as with organisations that help make the city districts resilient and socially robust. One of the keys for achieving this is to discover and develop talent. The shared ambition is that residents from adjacent districts come to find work in the Rotterdam Makers District.



Vierhavensstraat, Europoint towers and Roof park

**COLOPHON**

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THE ROTTERDAM MAKERS DISTRICT IS THE BEST SPOT IN THE REGION FOR THE INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

The Makers District, comprising the areas of RDM Rotterdam and M4H Rotterdam, is the ideal location for new businesses to develop into established enterprises.

It also gives large companies the opportunity to experiment with new products and processes. Here, they can invent, test and implement new technologies. New technologies based on digitisation, robotisation, additive manufacturing and the application of new, sustainable energy and materials. Consequently, the Makers District is a testing ground and showcase for the new economy. Visible to everyone.

The added value that the Makers District has to offer is not just the result of the physical space, but especially that of a business climate that encourages and boosts collaboration and entrepreneurship. Cooperation with knowledge and educational institutions in the region is crucial, as this is where young people are introduced to the techniques of the future.

The Makers District is working hard on achieving an even closer link with M4H and RDM. The objective is to create a community of successful and innovative entrepreneurs, integrated with the broader, regional innovation ecosystem of businesses, knowledge institutions and sources of funding. The Makers District is rapidly turning into a vibrant area with housing, a wide range of facilities, culture and events.



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**MAKE IT HAPPEN.**