
Press Release

On February 21, 2001 the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research TNO acquired full ownership of Holland Metrology N.V., the holding company of NMI B.V., the Netherlands Metrology Institute.

Up until now the Ministry of Economic Affairs had been the sole shareholder of Holland Metrology. Mr. Kees Gouwens, currently managing director of TNO Building and Construction Research Institute, will be appointed as director general of Holland Metrology N.V. and NMI B.V. per March 1, 2001. Dutch parliament approved the acquisition on 6 February.

Perfect complement of qualifications and ambitions

The respective activities and ambitions of the TNO institutes and NMI complement each other perfectly, and the merging of activities offers a high added value to both parties. This is especially true for the development and maintenance of measurement standards and in the consolidation and expansion of their joint market position. TNO is also aiming to further develop its certification activities in order to extend its strong position in the Dutch knowledge infrastructure. TNO offers NMI significant opportunities and a new impulse to expand the prominent position it holds both in the Netherlands and worldwide.

Gouwens

Mr. Kees Gouwens (58) studied Civil Engineering at the Technology University of Delft. Between 1965 and 1978 he worked at TNO IBBC and from 1978 to 1994 as director Public Works and Environment for the city of Tilburg. Since 1994 he has been managing director of the TNO Building and Construction Research Institute as well as Professor of Sustainable Building Technology at Eindhoven's University of Technology from 1995 to 1999.

TNO

TNO is a leading independent Dutch contract research organisation that provides a link within the innovation chain between fundamental research as a source of knowledge and practical application in the use of knowledge in a wide field of activities. Its expertise and research make a substantial contribution to the competitiveness of businesses and organisations, to the economy and to the quality of society as a whole. TNO was established by the Dutch government in 1932. In 1999 the consolidated turnover was 440 million euros. TNO employs over 5000 professionals, mainly in the Netherlands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

TNO CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
TEL: +31 15 2694975

NMI
DR. JAN BASTEN TEL: +31 15 2691666

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