

Project The New Afsluitdijk

Since 1932 the Afsluitdijk protects a large area of the Netherlands from flooding. It separates the salt water Wadden Sea from the fresh water inland lake IJsselmeer. In 2006 the Dutch Water Board recommended that this dam should be reinforced for water safety reasons. As a result in 2011 the Dutch government and the regional authorities started the project The New Afsluitdijk with the following goals:

- A safer water defence against the Wadden Sea
- More capacity for discharging the IJsselmeer at peak levels
- Innovative energy production (tidal, osmotic and solar energy)
- Ecological innovations with respect to fish migration
- More and better facilities for tourism

In close cooperation regional and national authorities working out the ambitions towards an implementation plan. Start of works are planned in 2017 and the completion in 2021.

The Afsluitdijk will at that time be transformed to an Energy Dam producing about 7 MW solar energy, 2,5 MW tidal energy and 1 MW osmotic energy. In the meanwhile various pilot projects will be carried out to prove the technology combined to this dam.

Experience from this project contributes significantly to the development of new decision models and business models for multifunctional water defences. The pilot plants will produce data for validation of technical, ecological and morphological design tools.



Pilot plant Blue Energy (osmotic energy)



Test site for free flow tidal turbines



Solar power plant over 24 km