PRESS RELEASE

IMPROVED SAFETY DESIGN OF THE WATER BOX BY BOSKALIS, WINNER OF THE IADC SAFETY AWARD 2023

Voorburg, the Netherlands, 14 September 2023

During the IADC Annual General Meeting in Barcelona, IADC President Frank Verhoeven revealed the winner of the Safety Award 2023. This year, IADC granted the safety award for dredging contractors to Boskalis for its improved safety design of the water box.

DREDGING CONTRACTOR AWARD

Boskalis has introduced new water boxes for sand fill areas, greatly improving safety for its employees. The water boxes have been designed, calculated and constructed in such a way that the risk of implosion due to soil pressure is eliminated.

Using an adjustable platform on the outside of the water box, it is possible to remove or add planks to regulate the water level within the sand fill area. A feature that is highly appreciated by the sand fill teams as this way of working eliminates severe safety risks.

The water box features an external, manually operated and adjustable platform that can be reached with a safe stairway. As the soil and water level rises, the platform can be moved up. This allows for project staff to add planks from the outside of the water box. This greatly enhances their safety, compared to traditional water boxes. The design is basically a “plug and play” setup and can easily be transported to a work site where local staff can receive instruction on how to handle the water box safely. Used in many projects around the world, this type of water box is currently being used by Boskalis on the Manila International Airport project.

ANNUAL AWARDS PROMOTE SAFETY INNOVATION

“As IADC, we realise that dredging contractors play an important role in increasing safety. Sometimes a simple idea can make a major contribution to improving safety, as is the case with Boskalis, which improved the safety of water boxes with a new design. This submission showed once again that an idea doesn’t always have to be
rocket science, but innovation can be found in the simplest of things,” says René Kolman, Secretary General of IADC. “Our Safety Award is designed to encourage the development of safety skills in the workplace and to reward people and companies who demonstrate a commitment to safety awareness in the course of their profession. The awards, presented each year, recognise the exceptional safety performance demonstrated by a particular project, programme, procedure, product, vessel, team or employee(s).”

*Photo caption 1-3: Boskalis improved the safety of water boxes with a new design. Copyright Boskalis*

*Photo caption 4: On behalf of Boskalis, Pim van der Knaap (right), Group Director, accepts the Safety Award 2023 which was bestowed by IADC’s President Frank Verhoeven (left).*
ABOUT IADC

The International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC) is the global umbrella organisation for contractors in the private dredging industry. IADC has over a hundred main and associated members. Together they represent the forefront of the dredging industry. An industry that makes the world a safer, better and more sustainable place to live. And IADC is driven to help that industry move forward with a variety of activities and publications, all available on our website www.iadc-dredging.com.

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