



William van Hout

VDL Network Supplies

Wintrack pylon: a high-grade, fully coated high-voltage pylon

VDL KTI continuously invests in the development of new products, such as the new high-voltage pylons that reach 60 to 80 metres in the air. 104 Wintrack pylons are currently being built for grid operator TenneT. This follows the 520 masts that have already been manufactured and erected on various Dutch above-ground power line networks.

The Wintrack pylon in Zeeland is a new type of pylon that was developed by TenneT and is already in use at different locations across the Netherlands. The power cables are suspended so that the pylons blend in better with the landscape, giving a calmer view. The pylons are set approximately 350 to 400 metres apart, allowing 50 pylons to cover a distance of around 20 kilometres. These innovative pylons

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ensure that a narrower magnetic field can be achieved and, thanks to the design, are much more sustainable for people, animals and our environment. "A big advantage is that you can build more densely in urban areas and use less space," says William van Hout, Director of VDL Network Supplies. "It is the best solution for built-up areas where, by definition, space is limited. The pylons require 60 percent less

space than traditional lattice towers and are easier to integrate into the landscape. The appearance, the image, and also the technical design are innovative and visually unique."

William van Hout is extremely satisfied with the work of VDL KTI. "They process metal plates to produce high-grade, fully coated steel pylons. They possess the right skills and their certified welders work according to the highest quality standards. It's a combination of automated welding and manual welding, for the clips and appendages. It is critical that the pylons are manufactured with high quality because they will be exposed to extreme winds and will have to bear the heavy weight of the power lines." The pylons are given the necessary coatings to ensure corrosion-resistance.

Installing the Wintrack pylons is a relatively quick process. "The pylons appear to be one piece, but they actually consist of two, three up to five sections with interior flange connections," says William van Hout. "This allows them to be assembled in a very short time. Installation is much quicker than the traditional lattice towers, which have an open steel construction and can take up to a few weeks to build. Our pylons, on the other hand, can be installed in just a few days." The average service life of the Wintrack pylons is between 40 to 50 years. In 2016, VDL KTI won the Dutch National Steel Award for this high-voltage tower project in the category Industrial Construction.