



THE SHIPBUILDING CLUSTER IN THE NETHERLANDS AFTER 1983 **COMPETITION AND INNOVATION**

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KEY CONCEPTS:

ocean-going ships; technological specialization and innovation;
outsourcing; maritime industry interdependencies

RESEARCH QUESTION

What were the agents and
consequences of structural
change in the Dutch ship-
building cluster after 1983?

RESEARCH AIMS:

- To define the shipbuilding cluster in the Netherlands in the post-1983 period.
- To assess effective and ineffective company strategies in a highly competitive international market.
- To analyze the interdependency of large shipyards and a high-grade cluster of small technologically advanced companies.

METHODOLOGY:

- In-depth analysis of strategies and interplay of major shipyards (Damen Shipyards, IHC Merwede) and maritime suppliers.
- Interviews with key people in the Dutch shipbuilding cluster.
- Archival research in company records, reports of industry associations and maritime journals


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