

SUMMARY

PARTICIPATION PLAN ARAMIS INITIATIVE

Sixth revised version, April 2025:
Preferred Option Phase — Detailed Plan

ABOUT ARAMIS

The Aramis initiative aims to reduce CO₂ emissions by developing infrastructure to transport CO₂ captured from large industrial plants to depleted gas fields deep beneath the North Sea. This process, called carbon capture and storage (CCS), is necessary because renewable energy is currently insufficient to eliminate fossil fuel use overnight.

CCS limits greenhouse gas emissions during the transition period required for industry to phase out fossil fuels. Aramis will thereby contribute to achieving the Paris Agreement climate goals.

SCOPE OF ARAMIS

Aramis aims to deliver CO₂ captured from industrial sources by ship and onshore pipelines to a collection hub with a storage terminal and a compressor station at Maasvlakte in Rotterdam. At the hub, captured CO₂ will be temporarily stored and compressed for onward transmission.

From the collection hub, the CO₂ will be conveyed under high pressure through a central offshore pipeline to a distribution platform or branch connections in the North Sea and then on to injection platforms operated by storage companies.

The construction of the central offshore pipeline and its branches, as well as the offshore distribution platform, the compressor station at the collection hub and the CO₂ transport to the hub at Maasvlakte, all form part of the Aramis project.

The open-access terminal for reception and transshipment of liquid CO₂ at Maasvlakte falls under CO₂next. The processes involved in capturing CO₂ at industrial plants and storing it in depleted gas fields beneath the North Sea lie outside the scope of the Aramis initiative. The Aramis infrastructure will be open access, providing interested parties with the opportunity to participate in the capture or storage of CO₂.

DECISION MAKING REGARDING ARAMIS

Aramis cannot be realised until a spatial planning decision is made and the appropriate permits are obtained. The Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth coordinates the entire project procedure. In addition to legally required public participation, Aramis is involving all interested parties in the project.

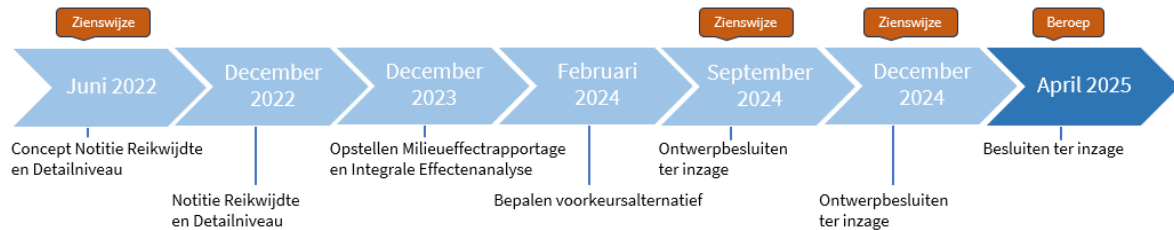


Figure 1. Overview of the steps and timeline of the project procedure.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SO FAR

Launch and first version of participation plan

The Aramis project procedure officially began on 6 January 2022 with the release of a notification of intent and proposal for participation in the project as well as the publication of the first version of the participation plan in the Government Gazette (*Staatscourant*). The Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth received six responses to the notification.

Draft Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail, technical design and second version of participation plan

On 19 and 24 January 2022, Aramis organised sessions for Maasvlakte and North Sea stakeholders, followed by individual and joint meetings. Input from these meetings was incorporated into an updated second version of the participation plan and taken into consideration when drafting the Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail (*NRD*) and the technical design.

During a stakeholder session on 21 June 2022, the draft memorandum was discussed, and eight views were submitted. The participation procedure led to two adjustments to the draft:

1. In response to the view submitted by Eni, its storage facilities and infrastructure will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment as equivalent to the storage facilities of TotalEnergies and Shell. Eni is a participant in Aramis.
2. The offshore pipeline route was optimised, resulting in three options and one variant, all of which were assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Final Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail and third version of participation plan

November 2022 saw the publication of the third version of the participation plan, focusing on the Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail as adopted in December 2022.

Integrated Impact Analysis and fourth version of participation plan

The fourth version of the participation plan was prepared during the Integrated Impact Analysis. This analysis of the different route options and variants included a detailed examination of environmental impact, costs, spatial integration, technical feasibility and future viability.

Permit applications and fifth version of participation plan

The fifth version of the participation plan covered the period from early 2024 up to the draft project decision and the first draft decisions on the permits. During this time, the preferred option (*VKA*) was developed into a detailed design, and the first set of permit applications was submitted on 9 February 2024.

The draft project decision and the first draft permits were published in the Government Gazette and local newspapers on 13 September 2024 and were available for public inspection from 13 September to 24 October 2024. On 26 September and 3 October 2024, Aramis and the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth organised public information sessions. Seven parties submitted more than 120 written views on phase 1. The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment also issued its advice.

The draft permits as part of phase 2 were published on 20 December 2024 and were open for public inspection until 30 January 2025. On 16 January 2025, Aramis and the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth held an online information session. Four parties submitted 21 views on phase 2. The views and the advice of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment were addressed in a Memorandum of Reply for both phases 1 and 2. This memorandum was published on 25 April 2025 — together with the final decisions — on the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) website.

PARTICIPATION IN THE COMING PERIOD

Phase 3 of permit applications was submitted on 20 December 2024. On 25 April 2025, the final permits — together with the final permits for phases 1 and 2 — were published. Anyone may respond to the project decision and the permits by lodging an appeal (phases 1 and 2) or an objection (phase 3). Aramis will inform the stakeholders as soon as the project decision and permits become irrevocable.

Construction of Aramis is scheduled to start in 2026. Aramis will continue to pursue proactive participation during the construction phase, for example, through:

- Community engagement managers, who will actively inform those in the surrounding area about activities and expected disturbance
- Walk-in meetings at the project site
- Aramis and CO₂next websites
- Aramis newsletter

REASON FOR UPDATING THE PARTICIPATION PLAN

The sixth version of the participation plan was prepared in response to the views submitted during the public consultation on the first and second sets of permits, the public information sessions and dialogue with stakeholders. It was decided to update version 5 of the participation plan and publish it in April 2025 with the final project decision and the final permit decisions. These documents, along with the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Memorandum of Reply, may be consulted during and after the appeal period.