



Dortmund, March 2021

World of Walas and DEW21 enter into a strategic partnership for Phoenix West

The Dortmund energy and water supply GmbH (DEW21) and World of Walas are going together in the development of Phoenix West. In addition to offering classic care services, DEW21 will also help to shape comfortable and sustainable life in this Dortmund quarter in the sense of a sustainable life provider. The wholly owned DEW21 subsidiary “DOData” will, as the driver behind many of the city's smartCity approaches, enrich digital life and business on Phoenix West. The Dutch-Canadian urban developer World of Walas, who has not only acquired the blast furnace system, the former Schalthaus and construction site 13 to the west of the blast furnace in Hörde, but also plans to develop the gasometer, the gas blower hall and the pump house in the near future, is entering new fields with its sustainability approach urbanization of old industrial areas. Space enough on the one hand to optimally supply future tenants, but also to implement and try out innovations again and again. With the partnership between DEW21 and World of Walas, Phoenix West will become an incubator and lighthouse for innovations related to energy, water and waste, including the digitization of urban systems. “It is the first time in DEW21's history that we have agreed such a strategic partnership for such an area. We look forward to supporting this future-oriented project as a partner and using our competencies profitably for the sustainable development of Phoenix West,” explains Heike Heim, CEO of DEW21. Gerben van Straaten, CEO of World of Walas: “This cooperation is very valuable for both sides. Walas is looking for new ways to consolidate the sustainability approach in our activities - and with the “World innovation Centre” in an international environment.” Optimal energy generation, use and management in cooperation with the use of digital solution play an important role in this.

Both sides plan to set up and test innovative energy systems, but also to develop strategies to use residual heat from local sources. An initial approach to cooperation is currently being examined at the Walas site in Heerlen, the Netherlands. This is about a pilot project in which heat from a data center is to be absorbed and then fed into the heating system of the Walas-building. This innovation could later also be expanded to Phoenix West.

The starting points are diverse and also include innovative building envelopes to improve the energy efficiency of the rooms used and, if possible, to generate sustainable energy with photovoltaics. An essential lever for optimized energy control is the use of sensors and intelligent control systems. This is where DEW21 subsidiary DOData comes into play. “Everyone is talking about SmartCity solutions. Here we can specifically test the possible uses, develop them further and show what specific added value data and IoT applications can offer,” says Heike Heim.

One of the interesting things here is the development of the AgroTech Centre in the former gas blower hall. In this center, which also includes greenhouse elements, energy, water and heat must be used and controlled in an intelligent and optimized way. “Scaling these specific requirements to the entire area and developing a holistic combined energy and heat management system for this is a completely new approach,” reports van Straaten.



With the partnership between DEW21 and World of Walas, Phoenix West is gradually becoming a unique development and test area for urban systems in a XXL format. Solutions that are developed here can then be transferred to other locations.



Source: DEW21

(left to right: Dirk van der Ven, Chief Innovation Officer World of Walas / Pascal Ledune, Chief Economic Development Officer World of Walas / Gerben van Straaten, CEO World of Walas / Heike Heim, CEO DEW21 / Sven Baumgarte, Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer DEW21 / Dominik Gertenbach, Head of Sales DEW21)

About DEW21

The Dortmund energy and water supply GmbH (DEW21), founded in 1995, supplies more than 600,000 residents and numerous companies in and around Dortmund with electricity, natural gas, heat and water every day.

DEW21 is increasingly developing into a sustainable life supplier that offers its customers more than traditional energy and water supplies. As a regionally rooted company, DEW21 actively uses the possibilities of digital transformation and derives value-added services from it, which are supposed to make customers' lives more comfortable. Sustainability is an integral part of the corporate strategy.

Since the company was founded, DEW21 has taken on special responsibility for the societal, social and cultural issues of the city and is involved in a large number of urban initiatives such as the "Alliance Smart City".

DEW21 generates around 260 GWh of green electricity annually from renewable sources and could thus theoretically supply more than a quarter of Dortmund's residents. In addition, DEW21 is investing more than 100 million euros in building a climate-friendly heating supply in the city center and promoting the issues of solar energy and electric mobility locally.



About World of Walas

Walas designs, creates, changes, develops, disrupts and tirelessly uses unusual ways to win the fight for a sustainable future. In his projects, Walas goes back to what is actually needed for the city: real urban development in which the needs of the city and its residents are served and monitored for sustainable success. With new ideas for old buildings and solid business practice, Walas creates places where people want to live, work, produce and participate. Walas projects aim to preserve the legacy of the old buildings and build vibrant new communities. Walas is and remains part of these communities and is gradually developing the buildings and areas.

Finding this balance in an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable way is a unique challenge. Walas deals with all aspects of urban development and redevelopment. This includes concept and design, development and construction, project management, property management and access to innovations. Walas works with cities, local communities, governments, corporations and innovators to provide the best solutions to projects and bring innovations to market.

Inspired by the Earth Charter movement and role models such as economist Jan Pen and urbanist Jane Jacobs, World of Walas was founded by Gerben van Straaten in 2010 and is a growing company with an exciting real estate portfolio focused on building sustainable communities through innovation, focused on projects and strategy developments.

The underlined a in the company name comes from an indigenous Canadian language. Walas was originally a Dutch-Canadian project that started in 1995 with the indigenous people of Canada, the Kwakwaka'wakw, also known as the Kwakiutl. Gerben van Straaten has become closely associated with this tribe and in recognition of his work he was given the name Walas, which he later registered as the company name. Walas literally means "big", but in this case it represents a mythical grizzly bear (Walas G'iladzi). World of Walas is committed world-wide to sustainability and the well-being of indigenous people. Trying to do justice to their culture and rights on all fronts.

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