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PIETER VAN AELST

Supply Chain Manager, Lommel



KEEPING LOMMEL'S SUPPLY CHAIN FLOW STEADY AND PREDICTABLE.

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A good process isn't 'nice to have' – it's the foundation for everything else.

Learn more
about our team



Pieter Van Aelst – Supply Chain Manager, Lommel.

Pieter joined ViskoTeepak in 2024, after 18 years at one of the largest European candle manufacturers. What convinced him was not only the industrial environment and global footprint, but the fact that there was space to build and improve how things work.

In Lommel, Supply Chain is the function that connects different realities: Procurement, Production, Finance and Sales Service. Pieter's main focus is simple to describe, but difficult to consistently achieve: making the flow stable, clean and predictable. From what comes into what goes out. A good process is not “nice to have”, it's the foundation for everything else.

But he is clear on one point: structure alone doesn't move product. With 11 warehouse colleagues and 2 buyers, daily stability depends on people who understand the flow and take ownership. “My role is to make the system understandable,” he says, “but they are the ones who make it run in reality.”

Outside of work, Pieter spends most of his time between his three children and his hobby projects. He enjoys working on different things: woodworking, CNC and laser cutting, cooking and smoking meat. He even did his first steps into sausage making with the help of Jos Rutten. “It's great to see a physical result of your work. It also keeps your feet on the ground, because the result isn't always exactly as you imagined it. — And to be clear; that part is about the hobby projects, not about the kids.”



PIETER IN HIS ELEMENT: WOODWORKING, CNC PROJECTS, AND HANDS-ON CREATIVITY.

The Value of One Shared Way of Working

Over the past year, one of the biggest learnings for Pieter has been how much value there is in alignment. When sites or systems work differently, transparency disappears and you automatically lose efficiency. The first period in Lommel was therefore mostly about understanding the ViskoTeepak landscape and fixing fundamentals — solving stock issues, correcting parameters and removing flow-breakers.

Pieter is currently starting a harmonisation project between Lommel and Hanko to bring different ways of working into one shared flow. The goal: one consistent, practical way of managing raw materials, spare parts and services.

What makes the work enjoyable is the ViskoTeepak culture: hands-on and pragmatic. Each site brings its own strengths, and by combining those different approaches, the whole group becomes stronger.

For Pieter, the most satisfying moment is when a flow runs clean and lean without firefighting, and data, people and process line up. That's when you know the system is truly working as intended.

Culture Is Not Words — It's How We Act

For Pieter, our company's values — Trust, Ambition and Fun — aren't slogans.

"We need these three if we want to move forward," he says. Trust grows when people are given room to think and act, without being micromanaged. It's not about letting go completely; it's about giving direction, clarity and expectations, and then letting people actually own the result. Setting clear personal objectives supports that, because expectations become visible and personal.

Ambition shows in the willingness to challenge how we have always done things. It means daring to say: is this really the best approach, even if the process has existed for years. It's about being willing to improve in a practical way, step by step.

And Fun is simply keeping the tone human, even when conversations are difficult. Every environment has tension, pressure, deadlines, problems. But the way we talk to each other determines whether we drain energy or build energy. A bit of humor, a bit of perspective, makes hard topics easier to deal with.

In Pieter's office, there is a Hearts & Minds line on the wall as a daily reminder:

Leaders create culture → culture drives behavior → behavior produces results.

"That line says it all," he adds.



Looking Ahead

For Pieter, the next chapter is about moving from fixing issues to building something that lasts. The shift from operational problem-solving into stable, sustainable structure is what he is most looking forward to. "And I believe we can get there, step by step."





Always around



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