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## Polyurethanes to stand storm tides

A new exciting and innovative contribution to tackle adverse climate change effects comes from the polyurethanes industry.

Polyurethanes have recently been used to protect exposed coastlines. The largest project to date featuring this new coastal protection system was completed recently at Bathpolder, at the southern tip of the Dutch North Sea coast.

Elastogran Holland, with technical support from Elastogran Germany used approximately 250 tons of crushed stones mixed with 60 tons of Elastocoast® (polyurethane) to cover an enormous bank revetment over a total area of 12,000 square metres and a length of one kilometre. The old bank revetment of concrete, stones and plates was removed.

This is the first coastal fortification project using polyurethanes. The polyurethanes crushed stone mixture absorbs more water, thus reducing wave accumulation, weakening the breaking waves and resulting in a much smaller load for the entire bank system.

During the punishing tests carried out by the local authorities, no ruptures or tears were caused to the polyurethanes revetment. This is essential as the use of heavy equipment is sometimes unavoidable during storm tides, and other conventional bank revetments had been unable to stand up to such harsh treatment. They had suffered damage which entailed lengthy repairs and completely unnecessary costs.

Such a successful application of polyurethanes could be crucial for the other endangered coastal regions that are increasingly affected by climate change. Protecting exposed coastline with polyurethanes provides a solution that is stronger, safer and, in the long run, much more economical than all other conventional methods.

[http://www.tvservice.basf.com/en/clip/clip/elastocoast-long-term-coastal-protection.html?atkon\\_dam\\_frontend%5Bmode%5D=detail&%3BcHash=51d808d884](http://www.tvservice.basf.com/en/clip/clip/elastocoast-long-term-coastal-protection.html?atkon_dam_frontend%5Bmode%5D=detail&%3BcHash=51d808d884)

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