



REACHING PEOPLE **ANYWHERE**

Dear friends, this is a story of patient, persistent progress. Buckle up for this year's reflection on solid teamwork, which paved the way for operations in Africa with the MiniFreighter.

Let's integrate in 2023!

The Wings For Aid team



After months of groundwork and tests, our crew and aircraft are ready for the next test flights. We set up base in South Africa, not far from Cape Town, and get ready for take-off.



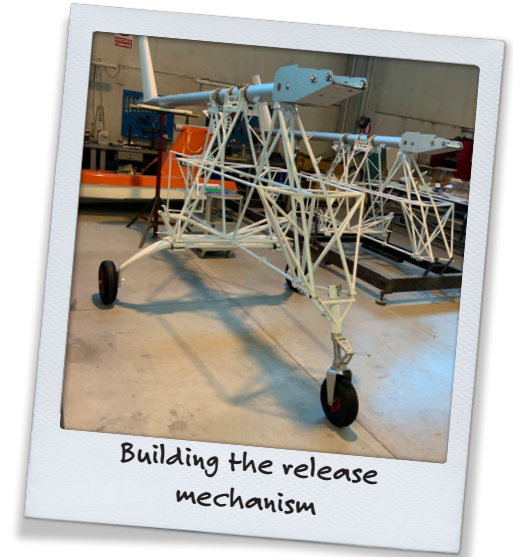
Getting ready for take-off...

To our surprise, it does not take long to find an unsatisfactory element in the flight behaviour: the aircraft shows significant signs of flutter and does not even allow the test pilot enough time to put it down safely. We lose our first aircraft in a full crash. An impactful start of the year, to say the least.

JANUARY

While we go through a full cycle of incident analysis, manufacturing partner FlySynthesis does not waste time and gets all components for the next five aircraft ready. Final assembly and integration will have to wait until we have identified, designed, and tested measures to counter the flutter that was found.

Meanwhile in Panama at the GRV Global conference Action on Disaster Relief, a disaster simulation session is attended with humanitarian actors. Great respect for the actors in the field, and humanitarian planners who face this complexity every day.



Building the release mechanism

FEBRUARY



In Amsterdam with  
Lufthansa Systems

At the Amsterdam Drone Week, we explore new alliances with Lufthansa Systems and Inmarsat.

At Cardboard innovators Smurfit Kappa in Helmond, we discuss production strategies for our self-landing delivery box –

essential for the upcoming market introduction and scale-up.

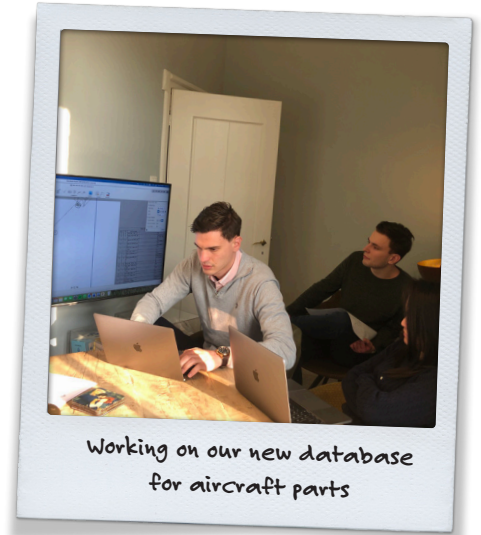


In Venice, close to FlySynthesis

In Venice, close to FlySynthesis, the water is still crystal clear and the squares sparsely populated. One of the very few advantages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MARCH

At HQ in Hilversum, students Gwenny, Noah and Tim from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences work on our new database for aircraft parts. Diligently, according to industry standards and with our own User Interface. Another big step forwards in the journey to build and maintain a complete 'system' for client-operators.



Working on our new database  
for aircraft parts

Rhenus delivers 300 boxes to ATC, a re-integration company, where Alexis instructs the team to pre-fold the boxes for use in the field.

We are honoured to present the result of Phase 1 and 2 (up to the first production model) at a *Kansen voor West* gathering in Rotterdam Ahoy. During the Wings For Aid speech, we stress our appreciation for the strong cooperation with the programs' staff and the City of The Hague.

APRIL



Booth at the University for Applied Sciences in Amsterdam

Our first 'booth' at the University for Applied Sciences in Amsterdam to attract new talent. Efforts pay out with new, skilled and enthusiastic applicants.



Design Synthesis Exercise presentation at the TU Delft

At the TU Delft faculty of Aerospace Engineering, students present intermediate results of their Design Synthesis Exercise. Director of Education Joris Melkert, always keen to get both fundamental and hands-on experience in their program, chairs the gathering.

MAY

At the factory in Italy, an expert team of Kanardia flies in to fix an engine reading issue.

Shortly thereafter, the avionics tests are executed by Amazilia Aerospace and we can start the ground tests. Following acceptance of serial number 002, the first one from FlySynthesis, we load the aircraft for road transport to The Netherlands.



MiniFreighter S/N 002 ready for roll-out



Starting the ground tests

JUNE





Test flight at  
Deelen AFB



Bart Hoeben and Eric van Dorst

We meet at Rhenus Schiphol, to discuss further cooperation. We have learned by now that the cooperation bears fruit: together with the Wings For Aid operators, we can offer an integrated service package. World-wide and at the edge of innovation.

Meanwhile in Eindhoven, best fellows Bart Hoeben (Royal Dutch Airforce) and Eric van Dorst (VanBerlo/ Accenture) organise a strategic workshop on the growth and professionalisation of the Wings For Aid organisation. New friends of Allied Forces and Lufthansa Systems attend as well – to look forward and past the current edge.

JULY

Our friends at the Royal Dutch Airforce, masters of agility, authorise the use of the runway of air force base Deelen in summer. Friends of DLR, the German aerospace institute, help to forge test points and a flight plan. Will the issue that brought the aircraft down on South Africa be solved? Two minutes after take-off we are not certain of it and – to avoid any further risk – pull the parachute. What follows is a spectacular view and a soft landing. We count our blessings: one more system tested. But at the same time, more engineering is required to fly the full envelope. We bring the aircraft back to Italy quickly, where a team is waiting eagerly to improve the aircraft by fixing the issues.



The parachute!

AUGUST





Kees and Pieter at the Wings For Aid booth in London

Our dear fellow Kees 't Hooft, Londoner studying in Delft, combines a family visit with setting up and manning the Wings For Aid booth at DroneX. Intern Pieter van Norel, a quick learner, is there to assist and helps to build new partnerships. At his private study in Leiden, To70 consultant Adrian Young gets the latest and some good old-fashioned knowledge together for us.

The Wings For Aid Board meets at VanBerlo/Accenture in Ypenburg and listens to the results of the incident analysis. The process has been led by Ronald van Gent, to full satisfaction. Barry and Pieter travel to Pretoria to meet Roan Dijkstra and col. René Marchal, Military Attaché for The Netherlands in Africa, and discuss potential civ/mil cooperation in humanitarian settings. Meanwhile, Alexis performs road tests at the runway in Italy, to see whether we can also drop boxes horizontally (yes, probably).

## SEPTEMBER

Oleg Aleksandrov, RPAS-UAS lead at the World Food Program, visits the factory in Italy and is brought up-to-speed by director Massimo Meroi and Maarten van Ginkel, chair of the Wings For Aid Foundation.

Back again in The Hague, we celebrate the formal completion of Phase 1 and 2 of the project with the management of the *Kansen voor West* agency and Frank Puchala, representative of the City of The Hague.

Barry and Oleg meet in Istanbul thereafter at the Global Humanitarian Air Conference to discuss progress and the best way forward with operators.

## OCTOBER



Oleg Aleksandrov meets the team in Italy



Completion Phase 1 and 2 in The Hague



Eva Spoor works with Bert Rustenhoven

Ryan Vu joins the team as Technical Director and takes responsibility for the design and execution of the technological road map: design, engineering, testing and crew training of the current aircraft are under his watch.

Together with Eric and his VanBerlo Accenture team, briefings and Statements of Work are completed for the ICT platform and smart support systems.

In Hilversum, intern Tim Mulder completes the labelling system of our on-line OEM Part System. Admin officer Eva Spoor works with Bert Rustenhoven, accountant partner at Grant Thornton, on the structured appreciation of our bookkeeping according to international standards.

We keep a continuous eye on the weather in North Germany, where the improved MiniFreighter S/N002 is waiting – ready for flight. Will we complete this year with solid results?

On 8th December, the time has come for the MiniFreighter to line up on the runway. Ryan leads the team and Rael is appointed Pilot In Command for this test, with Arie Slagter and Richard Ruiterkamp right next to him as flight test engineers. The take-off is flawless and so are the circuit flights. After 28 minutes of flight, the touch-down is breath-taking. Rael lands with a three-pointer, slows down and reaches for the parking brake. SUCCESS!! We clean the aircraft and run to the hotel for well-deserved drinks and celebrations. What a fantastic ending of the year. Next year's ambition, integration with WFP operation to help people in need, is in reach.



Line up on the runway



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[www.wingsforaid.org](http://www.wingsforaid.org)