



Dear friends,

We have worked hard in 2018 to 'get things to work'.
And we delivered, thanks to your support and dedication.
We have listed some of the highlights of the journey in
this booklet for you.

Let's fly and deliver in 2019!

The Wings For Aid team

JANUARY



January:
Singular Aircraft Barcelona

We meet Luis Carillo's team at Singular Aircraft in Barcelona. They are testing their FlyOx UAV, that can carry significant payloads up to 2,000kg. The cargo bay, originally designed to carry water for fire fighting, may well be converted to hold Wings for Aid boxes. Next to building the network we need, we also continue to strive for sufficient funding. We ask the court to assist us in the difficult dialogue with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Through a Rotary friend, Gerco Goote joins Wings for Aid to run Finance. He has built vast experience in banking, funding and start-up strategies. We welcome him on board and celebrate that each and every time, we cross paths with the right people to build the organisation we need to achieve our goals. Speaking of such matters, we also meet with representatives of the Netherlands Aerospace Centre / NLR to discuss a project with the Air Force and Army.



February:
Gerco joins Wings for Aid

FEBRUARY

MAY



May: path-finding in
the Dominican Republic



We keep finding new ways to test. In Zwolle, we perform various drop tests with our new, radio controlled release mechanism. At the same time, we finalise the project with DLR and the World Food Program Innovation Accelerator. The Dominican Republic is our next stop!



April:
droptests in Zwolle

APRIL

We have now been 'indoctrinated' by the Air Force, and start the project in the Dominican Republic with a site survey. With all stakeholders, we discuss the project and agree on procedures. Johann Dauer of DLR works with the national aviation authority and gathers the data needed for the Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA). We're in the field where we feel good!

MARCH



March:
Lt.kol Bart Hoeben

We now want to test our cargo box under extreme conditions and plan various in-flight drop tests. Under the leadership and guidance of Lt.Kol. Bart Hoeben, our Point of Contact at the Air Force, drop tests at Woensdrecht are arranged. Spectacular results – but not all positive. We clean up and gather with VanBerlo, NLR, TU Eindhoven and TU Delft to discuss the findings. At amazing speed, changes are implemented in the design.



Smurfit Kappa

At Smurfit Kappa in Olen, the first 'batch' of Wings for Aid boxes is produced. Great to see the flat cardboard moving through the machines, as we have a pretty good feeling with the humanitarian impact. Every tick of the machine is 20kg payload, or 200 meals. Thank you Bart & team!!



June:
first batch of the boxes

JUNE

JULY



We come to agreement with Air Force, Army and the Ministry of Economic Affairs on a Demonstration Sprint project. It is based on matters that we both want to gather knowledge on. A small but prime example of Civ/Mil cooperation to serve humanitarian goals and build new Dutch knowledge at the same time. We meet at Pipistrel Aircrafts in Slovenia to discuss the acquisition of a bespoke test-bed for boxes and sensors.



SEPTEMBER



We welcome Rhenus Logistics as strategic partner. They had already sponsored the Dominican Republic project and arranged for smooth and effective logistics. Now we aim for more and start to investigate the potential of cargo drones. And related issues that can make a huge difference, like a 'green lane' based on pre-clearance.



AUGUST



The team grows. Alexis Roseillier, inventor of the box (!) is appointed as full-time Lead Engineer. Alexis is the spider in the web, manages interactions between the various teams and holds responsibility to deliver, according to plan. We are very happy and celebrate that key people can now focus fully on Wings for Aid.

NOVEMBER



Always eager to build knowledge and learn, we agree with the University of Hamburg to be part of their research on tri-sector partnerships. During the Amsterdam Drone Week, we are invited to the EASA panel on the potential of cargo drones in humanitarian logistics. The German ZDF includes Wings for Aid in their coverage. With DLR and Pipistrel in the team, we are now truly European.

DECEMBER



Barry is on air for an interview on the Rotary beneficiary concert. The same day, 400 guests gather at the barracks in Hilversum, see the Pipistrel aircraft and enjoy a breath-taking concert of the Air Force Orchestra and violinist Janneke van Prooijen. On 24th December the court writes us that the Wings for Aid Amendment of the Dutch Parliament is the basis for the allocation of reserved funding. Forward!



OCTOBER



A regional newspaper reports on the successful tests in the Dominican Republic. Research and storytelling have proven to be essential to grow, as the general public and stakeholders learn more and more about the positive impact that this technology can have.

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Stichting Wings For Aid Foundation
www.wingsforaid.org