



REACHING PEOPLE **ANYWHERE**

Dear friends,

Last year we said, 'let's deliver in 2020'. And so we did! Together with our partners, we realised all needed elements to start the first mission. Enjoy this month-by-month booklet about the journey.

Let's deploy in 2021!

The Wings For Aid team

JANUARY



We start 2020 with a demonstration mission for stakeholders in Curaçao, but not before our talent to improvise is tested. The sea container arrives in Aruba instead and, thanks to the strong Rhenus network, we manage to get it offloaded and assemble the aircraft within 12 hours. Our test pilot flies cross border to Curaçao and the next day we demonstrate our drop capabilities to representatives of the World Food Program.



APRIL

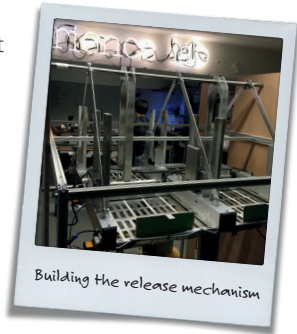


Due to the lockdown measures, we have to abort the World Tour. We make a list of what we can do and decide to focus on the Operation Manuals for our ground- and air operations. With the help of our friends at To70, we get to one safe and sound Concept of Operations. As there is time to focus, we also setup a Content Management System, so that all paragraphs of the manual can be held up-to-date and mission specific.



At VanBerlo in Ypenburg all learnings from the test program are evaluated and put into the production model of the release mechanism for the first real Cargo Drone, that is being produced at manufacturing partner Pipistrel in Slovenia.

VANBERLO



FEBRUARY

MAY



Lockdown measures are still tight but Amazilia Aerospace is working on the Ground Control Station for the aircraft and needs our test pilot to evaluate it. We make appropriate travel arrangements and experience the Schiphol and Munich airports with more aircraft than passengers. In Amazilia's office in Munich we test the system, closely observed by their team to take measures for ergonomics and workload where needed.



MARCH



Faced with more and more project logistics and test activities, we acquire a Mercedes van and turn it into a moving project office. When the COVID-19 measures separate Wings For Aid's founder Barry from his father living on the first floor of a hospital, the van is put to use 'to reach people anywhere': Barry climbs on the roof to talk to his father. The Dutch 8 o'clock news makes a broadcast of it. May the van bring us luck and connections!



Another essential trip: this time to the Pipistrel team in Slovenia. For the first time we see the output of their high-performance, dedicated engineering team: Serial Number 1 of the Wings For Aid MiniFreighter. Bring in the release mechanism from The Netherlands, so that it can carry 8 boxes of essential supplies to people anywhere!



JUNE

JULY



First manoeuvres

Taxi test time at Pipistrel: it is time for the first roll-out from the factory. Test flights are not allowed under Slovenian law but the maneuvering of the aircraft on-ground can be tested. Go MiniFreighter, go!



The test aircraft is stationed at Twente airport, where we work on the autopilot system. As we intend to put the Optionally Manned test aircraft 'on system' to work with the same ground control system, some reverse engineering needs to be done with the autopilot. Twente offers the perfect place to work on this undisturbed, day and night.



Reverse engineering by Arie

AUGUST

Lead engineer Alexis has made so many improvements to the boxes that a test campaign is needed. We reach agreement with our friends at the German Aerospace Centre DLR to make use of their newly acquired drone test facility in Cochstedt, roughly between Hannover and Berlin. Amongst many other things we simulate the dropping of vaccines, using Jägermeister bottles from 100m height in boxes that are insulated with inlays from our friends at Trip & Co.



SEPTEMBER



Barry takes care of the coffee

NOVEMBER



Alexis with the new mounting points

With the successful testcampaign completed and the aircraft prototype ready, we are getting closer and closer to the realisation of our mission. We reach agreement with the International Federation of the Red Cross on the way forward for mission training in East Africa. From the Aviation department of the Nobel Price winning World Food Program, we receive a Letter of Interest. Moments of significance. The Dutch parliament discusses the budget for international cooperation and reserves an amount of € 5mln to fund our program for operational validation. No better way to end this exciting year.



Mr. Weverling, Dutch MP for the liberal party VVD

DECEMBER

OCTOBER



Setting up the hangar

To prepare for the tests in Switzerland, we setup an exemplary HomeBase at Schmerlat airfield in Schaffhausen, close to Zürich. Operations expert Eelko Brouwer activates his Red Cross network and new Swiss friends sprint in to assist.

The cargo bays for the Optionally Manned test aircraft undergo an upgrade program. The mounting points to the wings now feature a positioning system to reduce the time for mounting. Furthermore, all features of the release mechanism for the drone are integrated into this cargo bay. And in the 'clean cockpit project', we professionalise the aircraft for use in missions.

Let's
deploy
in 2021!



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