CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Wings For Aid and its project partners VanBerlo and Technical University of Delft receive financial support from the OP West 2014-2020 “Kansen-voor-West II” programme under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the development of a UAV-based transportation system for humanitarian logistics.

WHY?

In any humanitarian crisis – such as an earthquake or flood – people in need simply deserve help as soon as possible. But reaching out to victims in hard to reach places can be complex, costly and hazardous. When roads are out, communications are down or conflicts rage high, it is very difficult and sometimes impossible to reach the people in need. One key logistical problem is ‘the last mile’ which is a distance up to 250km.

THE PROJECT

This project aims to develop solutions to reach the victims that are stuck in such humanitarian ‘last mile’ situations. Through airdropping innovative self-landing cargo boxes with aid supplies (e.g. water, food, blankets, etc.) from dedicated cargo-UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, also called ‘drones’) Wings For Aid can swiftly deliver aid supplies to the people in need, side by side with relief workers.

VALORISATION

The Wings For Aid concept focusses on stimulating the development of marketable products and services (valorisation). Developing the described UAV-based solution, bringing it to market with a group of SMEs, and providing a disaster relief service make the project fit with the objectives of the Kansen-voor-West II programme and offers opportunities for both knowledge institutions as companies in The Netherlands and Europe.

FURTHER ENDORSEMENTS AND SUPPORT

Wings For Aid’s ambition and development roadmap are also endorsed by the Dutch Ministry of Defence. The support includes a financial contribution to the initiation of the development roadmap. Furthermore, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted a subsidy for this project, specifically for the start-up of the organisation, prototype development and pilot testing in real environments. Wings For Aid and its partners are grateful for these contributions, which enable a fast-track development and demonstration of the solutions that are much needed for the world’s next humanitarian disaster situations.