We have enjoyed an exciting 2017, where our different teams achieved momentous milestones towards that one common goal: bridge the last mile to reach people in need, always and everywhere. Thank you for your support and dedication! We have listed some of the highlights of the journey in this booklet for you.

Let us make 2018 the year of stronger connections between the teams, and the solution we offer tangible and operational. It can be done, and so we will.

Happy New Year!
Students of Hans Heerkens c.s. present findings on their research, including the critical evaluation of the Wings for Aid Mini Freighter concept. We integrate their findings in our work and continue the work with the Platform for Unmanned Cargo Aircrafts, PUCA.

The World Food Program starts their UAV Coordination Working group, with support of the Belgium government that fosters humanitarian innovation. We are a proud member and chair the subgroup for partnership development.

Responsible Robotics leads a good workshop on the ethical issues surrounding the foreseen widespread application of UAV/drone technology. The ambition is set to produce a guiding follow-up paper to the 2014 OCHA report.

Students of TU Eindhoven have tested the VanBerlo design of our cargo box. Now it’s time for fine-tuning and production at Smurfit Kappa Van Dam. Very happy with their support with knowledge, carton and R&D facilities.

Orange Aircraft has opened up brand new production facilities at Breda International Airport. We inspect their UAV model, which could well be the basis for the initial Wings for Aid test and demonstration aircrafts.

Under the leadership of Bart Hoeben, the scripted and thorough testing of the cargo box continues step by step. The flight approval tests for airdrops at Woensdrecht are succesful. Thanks to Rotary and Skydive Roosendaal for sponsoring.

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Never a dull moment for the Wings for Aid foundation. After advice and guidance of PwC, the Dutch tax office grants the ANBI status (Public Benefit Organisation). So it is making even more sense to sponsor us ;-).

We visit DLR in Braunschweig, to get to terms and appropriate action during a one-day workshop. Joris Melkert (TU Delft) has so many interviews the day before that he travels through the night in a Fiat 500. That’s the spirit!

Wings for Aid is selected as one of the top-10 innovators at the Global Innovation Week, hosted by USAID. Together with Vishnu Nagendra, a cargo box is handed over to Greg Olson, director of Food for Peace.

At IATA, Céline Hourcade has organised the second Drones Lab. We gather in Barcelona and present the great potential for humanitarian use with Sara de la Rosa (UNICEF) and UPS. Also: inspiring visit to the nearby Singular Aircraft production site lead by founder Luis Carillo.

Following interest from WFP Aviation and WFP Dominican Republic, we join an intense one-week innovation bootcamp in Munich together with DLR. Great pitch result at Google HQ. Process lead by Gianluca Bruni (thank you ;-) of the WFP Innovation Accelerator team.

How to start the holiday season? With a grand beneficiary concert for Wings for Aid! A night to remember with net revenue 40% over target. Thank you Rotary, Royal Netherlands Airforce, Tim Kliphuis, Van Oudheusden Barracks and sponsors. Wonderful!!
Let’s make it all work in 2018!
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