

PRESS RELEASE

Filderstadt, 21 September 2022

Virtual simulation for emergency situations **2nd International HHO Symposium by DRF Luftrettung**

Virtual training concepts and systems are an important component in the training of crew members. This conclusion was also made by roughly 120 experts from all over the world at DRF Luftrettung's second Helicopter Hoist Operation Symposium at Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden Airport.

Safe.Hoist.Operation: in September, DRF Luftrettung's Operation Center became a meeting place for hoist experts from Europe and overseas to discuss current issues relating to safe hoist operation. 'Virtual training concepts are the future because they professionalise the crew members' training,' says Sebastian Schneider, Head of Training at DRF Luftrettung and organiser of the symposium, summing up the main topic. Whether floods, climbing accidents or transporting workers, augmented- and virtual-reality technologies let complex deployment scenarios be played out repeatedly, realistically and independently of factors such as weather and time. The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) also emphasised that they are a useful addition to real-life flight training from an official point of view. In addition to leading training provider Priority 1, Reiser Simulation and Training and DRF Luftrettung also provided insights into current developments. The two partners demonstrated flight simulator connectivity for the first time, one of the outstanding features of their new HHO simulator. The audience was able to watch live and see how a connection was made to the Reiser Full Flight Simulator Level D in Frankfurt and how the hoist operator simulated a scenario with the pilot.

Practical demonstrations: from emergency procedures to catastrophes

The 15 specialised presentations examined the challenges of safe helicopter hoist operation from a variety of perspectives. 'Social factors such as communication between one another are now being considered more closely for the crew's cooperation, in addition to their professional skills. The crew members work hand in hand; precision and teamwork are always important,' explains Jörg Redetzky, Head of Crew Training. The cable cut demonstration showed what such teamwork might involve in extreme cases. The audience was able to watch live how a DRF Luftrettung helicopter with an activated hoist and a rescue stretcher flew in and the hoist cable was cut off. A representative from Collins Aerospace explained the steps of this rare emergency procedure which requires maximum concentration. On the second day, American manufacturer Vita Inclinata presented a new product that can be particularly useful in disaster or crisis situations: a self-stabilising load-carrying system. It prevents stretcher spin on the hoist using thrust technology.

Working together for safe hoist operation

From vision to reality: 'We are proud to have succeeded in establishing a European platform for helicopter hoist operation. The positive response from our participants and the even greater response compared to last year shows us that we are all pulling together to make helicopter hoist operation even safer. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors Bell Helicopters, Breeze Eastern, Collins Aerospace and Vita Inclinata. We absolutely want to continue the symposium over the next few years,' says Sebastian Schneider.

About DRF Luftrettung

DRF Luftrettung based in Filderstadt is one of the largest and most experienced air rescue organisations in Europe. At its 29 bases in Germany, DRF Luftrettung operates helicopters for emergency rescue and for urgent transport of intensive care patients between hospitals. Crews are on standby around the clock at eleven of these bases and four bases have helicopters equipped with rescue hoists for missions in difficult terrain. In addition, DRF Luftrettung repatriates patients from abroad using its own ambulance aircraft. DRF Luftrettung carried out a total of 38,076 in 2021.

The Austrian organisation ARA Flugrettung, with two standard bases and one winter base, has been part of the DRF Luftrettung since 2001. In addition, the NHC Northern Helicopter, which performs air and water rescue from three bases, has joined the group in 2019. DRF Luftrettung is also involved in Alpine Air Ambulance in Switzerland, which operates two bases.

The charitable air ambulance organisation is reliant on financial support in order to continue taking its life-saving mission from strength to strength. DRF e.V. can already count on the generosity of well over 400,000 members.

For more information, please visit www.drf-luftrettung.de

Contact:

DRF Luftrettung
Rita-Maiburg-Strasse 2
70794 Filderstadt
Germany
presse@drf-luftrettung.de

Eva Baumann

T +49 (0) 151 40655 021
eva.baumann@drf-luftrettung.de