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PRESS RELEASE

Madrid, Mayo 13th 2020

MEDICAL STAFF WILL TRAVEL ON PRIVATE FLIGHTS AT NO COST DURING THE REOPENING

The move aids the recovery of the industry , and medical staff and materials will be travelling more easily between places with difficult connections.

In these difficult times, the reduced travel offerings sometimes hinder the efforts of personnel in medical organizations. The NGO Aviation Without Borders (ASF-Spain) has teamed up with general aviation operators to alleviate the situation by providing, within Spain, free low-scale, ad-hoc, air transportation for medical staff and materials, while assisting in the recovery efforts.

In France the NGO Aviation Sans Frontieres recognised the problem, and acknowledged that ad-hoc air travel could increase the effectivity and alleviate the efforts of the medical community. They decided to set up this initiative over three weeks ago. Over a hunderd flights have been carried out on routes where transportation was difficult or non-existent. Several dozens private aircraft offered by companies, manufacturers and private individuals have participated, with the support of airports, authorities, fuel companies and others (see <https://www.asf-fr.org/covid-19-0>)

ASF-Spain has joined forces with AOPA-Spain, the Royal Aeroclub of Spain and several private operators to replicate the French model in Spain. This has the additional goal of helping the recovery of the general aviation industry, which has been terribly hit by the lockdown. The flights are counting with the gracious support of several industry organizations like CEPESA and CLH, who will donate and supply fuel, respectively, AENA, facilitating airport operations and fees, Wingly, the flightsharing startup, that supplies the online platform, the aerospace consultancy EC-FLY, and the Royal Aeroclub of Balearics, in project coordination. Several flight schools have also expressed interest and are awaiting authority approval to participate.

The platform can be accessed via <https://asf-espccovid.wingly.io/> where registration is accessible to any person within the public or private medical sectors in order to access the service, as well as pilots and aircraft owners in order to offer their support.

The program will be in place until June 15th for the on-demand transportation of groups from one to ten persons, or materials up to 1000kg, depending on the availability of resources. The duration can be extended depending on the evolution of the situation.

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ASF-Spain is an NGO with over 20 years placing Aviation in the support of aid projects within and outside Spain, focusing on children and support to disadvantaged communities.

The Royal Aeroclub of Spain (RACE) and AOPA-Spain (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) together encompass a large part of the general aviation operators in Spain. The sector includes private and training flights as well as aerial works, with small and medium-size aircraft, with thousands of direct and indirect workers in our country alone. It represents a valuable addition to the industrial and tourism sectors, as well as in the resolution of emergency situations. They can operate not only at traditional airports, but also at smaller airports in rural and remote areas, while minimizing sanitary risks associated to larger-scale transportation.

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