

## INVITATION TO PRESS CONFERENCE

World premiere in Mechelen

### **Drone Future to test autonomous drone deliveries at the Technopolis site**

In recent years, the Belgian start-up Drone Future has been working on its technology to receive and return parcels that will soon be delivered by drones fully autonomously. In November, the system should be fully up and running and it wants to test this so-called *last mile solution* in practice for the first time. To this end, it works together with Technopolis and the City of Mechelen.

**On Tuesday 25 June, we will be presenting the pilot project for the first time at the future Drone Future production site in Zedelgem. We look forward to welcoming you at 10 am.**

E-commerce has been booming business for several years now. And with the growth of e-commerce, more and more issues are on the table of parcel services. What about mobility? What about sustainability? Drone Future asked itself the same questions and found the solution not on the road, but in the air. It developed an all-in-one solution with docking station and charging point, battery swapping system, automatic lift and smart mailbox for drones. Companies and individuals are thus able to receive their parcels without having to do anything. Drones deliver orders fully autonomously in Drone Future's system.

Specifically, the pilot project includes a series of autonomous drone flights with a payload of up to five kilograms. The drones will fly from the bpost site in Mechelen to the Technopolis site. There, a drone will deliver the package and then take it back. Because yes, returning parcels is also done completely autonomously thanks to Drone Future's solution.

Soon the drones will be flying back and forth in the business centre of Mechelen-Zuid. The City of Mechelen and FOD Mobility granted the necessary permits for this project. "We are pleased to be able to start this global first with these partners and in our own country," says Kris Rottiers of Drone Future. Together with Bart Goovaerts, known from fireplace manufacturer M-Design, he is the inventor of this solution. "We worked on the system for several years. The system has now been patented worldwide in the United States, China, Japan, Europe and Russia. It's no coincidence that these are our first focus markets," says Bart Goovaerts.

Despite the repeated request from these countries to be the first to test the system, Drone Future chose Mechelen. "Feel free to call it a piece of chauvinism. In addition,

Mechelen is one of the most innovative cities in our country. It just matched with our technology," says Bart Goovaerts.

With this pilot project, Drone Future wants to prove in the first place that the technology is ready. "But the legislation in global markets is also developing sufficiently maturely to make this new logistics evolution possible," Kris and Bart believe. "We are convinced that the delivery of parcels must be faster, safer and more ecological. Our solution also aims to provide a partial answer to the mobility issue. Especially in cities and densely populated areas, drone deliveries are the future. With Drone Future, we have now literally taken the final step towards it."

### **Practical information press conference**

<i>Date</i>	<b>25 June 2024 - 10 AM</b>
<i>Location</i>	Drone Future (Site M-Design) Torhoutsesteenweg 206 8210 Zedelgem (Belgium)

### ***About Drone Future***

*Drone Future was officially launched in 2018. It wants to offer a solution to be able to receive and return parcels, which will be delivered via drones in the future, in a safe, ecological, fast and efficient way. In recent years, a lot has been invested in RCD and several tests have been carried out. The system is now ready to show to the focus market: national and international logistics, medical, retail, mail order and e-commerce companies.*

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