

Press release

Labège, 30 January 2024

Medical drones: a Quebec team demonstrates the effectiveness of DELAIR's DT46 for long-distance medical delivery and sample collection for clinical trials

The team, composed of members of ECOGENE-21, its innovation partner INNOVITECH and DELAIR pilots, successfully performed a flight of over 150 km on January 16 with the DELAIR DT46 drone.

ECOGENE-21, a non-profit clinical research center based in Quebec, whose primary mission is to ensure access to innovation for unmet healthcare needs, has chosen the new DT46 drone developed by Toulouse-based DELAIR for its carrying capacity, range and flexibility.

The aim is to enable patients living in isolated areas to take part in clinical studies and give them access to innovative treatments. ECOGENE-21 has recently developed a range of digital tools for conducting remote clinical studies. With the delivery of medicines and other research products, and the collection of biological samples being the limiting factors, the ECOGENE-21 team naturally turned to drones to offer a complete solution for remote clinical studies.

A mission to Quebec led by Toulouse Métropole, Aerospace Valley and CRIAQ (Consortium de Recherche et d'Innovation en Aérospatiale du Québec) identified the DT46, the latest addition to the DELAIR drone range, as the best solution.

The next steps are to identify partners (drone operators, other long-distance drone users, etc.) to finalize development and establish the first medical drone delivery channels in remote areas.

Robust, silent, with long range capability and able to take off and land vertically, the DT46 can transport a temperature-controlled container in complete safety. What's more, thanks to its electric propulsion, it has a very low carbon footprint.

"When we started the project, the use of drones in clinical studies might have been science fiction. Today, we have demonstrated that it has become a reality. All that remains now is to establish the collaborations that will enable us to move the regulations forward and set up a network offering all Canadians living in remote regions the possibility of participating in clinical studies", says Diane Brisson, Senior Director of Operations at ECOGENE-21.

« This experiment is in line with our roadmap, which aims to demonstrate the dual potential of our drones, suitable for both civil and security/defense applications. We are convinced that, in the near future, these systems will become a significant part of the routine medical supply chain. This type of trial demonstrates the potential of our drones for medical deliveries. » adds Bastien Mancini, CEO of DELAIR.

About ECOGENE 21

ECOGENE-21 is a non-profit clinical research organization (NPO) dedicated to providing access to innovation for unmet health needs, coordinated from the Saguenay-lac-Saint-Jean (SLSJ) region in Quebec.

ECOGENE-21 has solid experience and internationally recognized expertise in the conception, execution, supervision and monitoring of clinical trials, and in the valorization of innovations that promote access to innovative precision treatments, particularly for patients suffering from rare or severe diseases.

<https://ecogene21.org/en/>

About DELAIR

Founded in 2011 in Toulouse, DELAIR designs, manufactures and commercializes a complete range of aerial and underwater drones for industrial inspection and security/defense applications. Present in over 70 countries with thousands of drones in operation, the company aims to be the European leader in professional UAVs by 2030. The company has a workforce of 90 with sales of over 10 million euros in 2023.

<https://www.delair.aero>



Press contact : Stéphane DOUCE - stephane.douce@delair.aero - +33 6 08 90 19 35