



PRESS RELEASE
09th July 2020

Overwhelming generosity:

LAR presents donation-financed EpiShuttle for helicopters and two new Isolation Chambers for ambulance jets

No sooner said than done. Just eight weeks after the first appeal for donations, LAR has put the first of two urgently needed EpiShuttles into operation.

The special isolation stretchers allow patients with highly infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, to be transported quickly and safely in what is effectively a mobile isolation ward. The cost of this acquisition totals 250,000 EUR, a sum which had to be found outside LAR's budget and at very short notice. The cost included installation, other necessary equipment, as well as aeronautical approval.

Important investment in more safety

„We thank our donors from the bottom of our hearts for making possible such an important investment in improved safety“, said René Closter, CEO and President of Luxembourg Air Rescue. „Special situations, such as the Corona crisis, require special action. Thanks to all the generous donations we have received, we now have 160,000 EUR to finance our first EpiShuttle ! This special piece of kit is vital to the fight against COVID-19 and will also save lives and protect patients and our crew from infections in the future,“ Closter says.

The EpiShuttle consists of an isolation stretcher under a transparent plastic dome. Air-tight tubing allows the patient to be connected to an intensive care ventilation system, while being treated and monitored at the same time. The patient can also be safely connected to other ventilation hoses and supply lines outside the isolation stretcher.

Didier Dandrifosse, Head of Medical at LAR, explains: „A further advantage of the EpiShuttles is that the lengthy and complex disinfection of the entire helicopter cabin is no longer necessary. This means that the rescue helicopter is now ready to take off again much faster than in the past. Our medical team has already been trained for the safe handling of this system. Our experience with Ebola is of great benefit to us here.“

Two new isolation stretchers for Learjets

For the transport of highly infectious patients in the Learjet, two additional Isolation Chambers have been purchased.* These new Isolation Stretchers are now also available for patient repatriation, which is free of charge for our members.

Since the beginning of the current pandemic, LAR has transported a large number of COVID-19 patients. LAR is still in need of around 90,000 EUR for the purchase of another urgently needed shuttle.

*With the kind support of the COVID-19 foundation, under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg.

Bank account for donations: **IBAN: LU77 0019 2855 5346 4000 BIC: BCEELULL**

Founded in 1988 as a non-profit organization, Luxembourg Air Rescue (LAR) now has 183,000 members. The organization, with its subsidiary Luxembourg Air Ambulance (LAA), is made up of six MD902 helicopters and six state-of-the-art Learjet 45XR aircraft. With 190 employees, LAR is dedicated to saving lives and rescuing those in distress in Luxembourg and in the Greater Region 24/7 and 365 days a year. LAR applies the highest safety and quality standards in the fields of medicine, technology and aviation to its life-saving mission. www.lar.lu

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