

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Innovative drone delivery trials take place at Milton Park

A pilot demonstration for a set of innovative drone and electric van freight trials was successfully completed at Milton Park, a science, technology and business community in Oxfordshire. The trials mark a significant step in the transition towards highly sustainable mobility systems.

The initiative, planned and overseen by [Oxfordshire County Council](#), is part of the [HARMONY project](#), testing low-carbon transportation as well as the integration of new mobility technologies with existing systems. Support was provided by academic partner, [University College London](#), and organisations from the Harmony consortium such as [RUAS](#), who managed the trial operation by providing and flying the drones, and [Airbus](#) through its Unmanned Traffic Management platform (UTM).

The Harmony consortium has planned a total of three pilot demonstrations, taking place in Oxfordshire, Rotterdam and Trikala. Their overall objective is to demonstrate electric automated vehicles (AVs) and drones in real-life conditions integrating them with traditional transport modes to understand the requirements, reactions and barriers and collect real-world data. The project received funding from the [European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme](#).

The pioneering combination of technologies used throughout these demonstrations mean they are the first of their kind, looking to advance mobility sustainability by reducing emissions, congestion and noise levels.

The trials at Milton Park, which included the use of an electric van provided by Oxfordshire County Council, and the delivery of a defibrillator, successfully highlighted that the mobility technologies tested enabled increased efficiency and speed of freight delivery.

Oxfordshire has one of the most sophisticated road traffic control centres in the UK and Milton Park was selected as the ideal location for the trials as it could offer a safe and controlled environment for innovative exercises. The Park proved to be a robust testing ground as the drone navigated airspace over the main roads and nearby railway, permitted by Network Rail, while also manoeuvring around buildings and green spaces.

Councillor Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment, said:

“Innovative zero-



carbon-ready transport is set to make a huge impact, it just needs us to demonstrate how. Hence this trial, which is another example of our close working with our world leading universities, of which we are extremely proud. As a council, we're already doing high profile work to help everyone reduce their individual emissions footprint and this is how we're looking to decarbonise the rest."

Veronica Reynolds, Sustainability and Community Manager at Milton Park, said:

"It was a real privilege for Milton Park to be chosen as the location for these cutting-edge trials in drone technology and we're grateful for the chance to collaborate with the other consortium partners on such an exciting project.

"The benefits from this innovative technology are clear to see, particularly from a sustainability point of view, as it could ultimately lead to fewer vehicles spending less time on the roads and a reduction in carbon emissions."

To learn more about the Harmony Project, click [here](#).

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About Oxfordshire County Council

About Milton Park

Milton Park is a dynamic science and technology park in Oxfordshire and one of the largest in Europe. It is a collaborative working environment and a welcoming community that fuels innovation and sustainable growth for more than 250 businesses and 9,000 people.

With three million sq ft (278,709 sq m) of offices, laboratories and warehouses and 25+ amenities, Milton Park is in 214 acres of ownership, of which 43 acres is open and landscaped space with water, shrubs, grass and trees.

Its primary responsibility is to its customers with a duty to create a home for dynamic businesses, small or large, thanks to an inspiring landscape, unrivalled connectivity, and welcome humanity.

It
facilitat
es life-



changing discoveries and conversations between the business community, local and national government, research, academia, education, local residents and all relevant stakeholders. By managing the buildings and infrastructure in sustainable ways, the environment is enhanced and flexibility is given for each company to realise its full potential. Milton Park provides a place where collaboration and the fusion of ideas can flourish, and talent can thrive. Social and cultural life are integral to Milton Park. As a member of the community, people can enjoy its many amenities and events.

About MEPC

MEPC develops and manages some of the UK's best commercial real estate and provides consistently strong, long-term, financial performance for our investors.

MEPC has a team of highly experienced professionals based in on-site offices to be close to occupiers.

MEPC understands the ever-changing needs of business and delivers property and place making solutions that are fit for purpose, consistently achieved industry leading levels of customer retention over many years.

Across MEPC's UK park and urban portfolio, MEPC provides workspace for more than 350 organisations and 15,000 people over four million sq ft.

Responsible property investment is important to the MEPC business strategy, meaning we work closely with all stakeholders in the communities we serve. The assets under MEPC management make a positive contribution to the economic welfare of the immediate areas both locally and nationally.

For further information, please visit: www.miltonpark.com