

## PRESS RELEASE

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### New Opportunities in Hoist Rescue

#### **DRF Luftrettung receives approval for hoistAR® simulator**

**DRF Luftrettung has received approval from the German Federal Aviation Authority (Luftfahrt-Bundesamt) for the hoistAR® hoist simulator. This makes DRF Luftrettung the first air rescue operator in Europe whose training syllabus for winch operations has received approval by a national authority. In the future, crews at the five stations with hoist helicopters will have access to additional virtual training options – complementing the practical training sessions conducted twice a year. The hoistAR® simulator can be coupled with the H145 Full Flight Simulator at LAT Lufthansa Aviation Training in Frankfurt. In “slave to FFS” mode, this enables joint training for hoist operators and pilots. This concept is unique worldwide to date.**

To perform the complex procedures involved in hoist rescue safely and efficiently, crews require regular, intensive and realistic training. Until now, this training could only be conducted during actual flight operations. With the newly approved mobile hoistAR® hoist simulator, developed by DRF Luftrettung in collaboration with Reiser Simulation and Training, crews now have access to a range of additional virtual training scenarios.

Based on XR (Extended Reality) technology, the simulator enables pilots and hoist operators – the crew members positioned on the skid, specifically for the H145 helicopter – to undergo training regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. This gives crews an additional opportunity to practise operational scenarios, prepare for current and future challenges, and further enhance safety for both crews and patients. One of the simulator's key features is that the entire system is integrated into a trailer. This makes it a mobile, self-contained training system that can be deployed at different locations. Hoist operators therefore do not need to travel to a dedicated simulation centre.

Another key advantage – and a unique feature of hoistAR® – is its two training modes:

**Stand-alone:** The hoist operator can train independently without the need for a pilot or Full Flight Simulator.

**Slave-to-FFS:** The pilot and hoist operator can train together from separate locations, jointly conducting hoist missions as well as normal, abnormal and emergency procedures. For this purpose, hoistAR® can be connected to the H145 Full Flight Simulator at LAT Lufthansa Aviation Training in Frankfurt. This concept is currently unique worldwide and opens up new possibilities for hoist training.

More information on hoistAR® is available at <https://www.drf-akademie.de/hoistar>

#### **Key features at a glance**

- Two training modes: “Stand-alone” for training hoist operators and “Slave to FFS” for joint training of hoist operators and pilots
- Portability: Quick setup and dismantling
- XR technology: Bridging the digital and physical worlds
- XY-axis motion platform: Adaptation to changing flight attitudes or weather conditions

- Realistic cable and load movement
- High-end system fidelity

### **Benefits for users**

- Training independent of time of day and weather conditions
- Greater safety in real-world operations: Repeated and customized training in emergency procedures and individual sequences of the winch operation
- Use of an environmentally sustainable system
- Higher availability of the aircraft fleet due to reduced tie-down time for training purposes

### **About DRF Luftrettung**

The DRF Luftrettung, based in Filderstadt, is one of the largest air rescue organisations in Europe. The helicopters and ambulance aircraft of the non-profit organisation take off for their missions from 34 bases at 32 locations in Germany. These include emergency rescue missions, transports of intensive care patients between hospitals, as well as repatriation flights of patients from abroad. At 13 of these bases, crews are on standby around the clock, at one further HEMS base in daytime operation with extended off-peak hours (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.). Helicopters with rescue hoists are used at five bases. In total, the DRF Luftrettung performed 36,407 missions in 2025. The non-profit air rescue organization relies on financial support to continuously expand its life-saving mission. The DRF e.V. already has around 400,000 supporting members at its side. For more information, please visit [www.drf-luftrettung.de](http://www.drf-luftrettung.de)

### **About DRF Akademie GmbH**

DRF Akademie GmbH is a 100% subsidiary of DRF Stiftung Luftrettung gemeinnützige GmbH and serves as the training provider for the DRF Group as well as for external clients. DRF Akademie offers basic, advanced, and continuing education in the core areas of emergency medicine, flight operations, and maintenance, as well as management and leadership development. Because we work daily with paramedics, emergency physicians, pilots, and technicians, we understand their real-world needs and what truly matters in day-to-day operations - we train our own colleagues every single day. For more Information, visit [www.drf-akademie.de](http://www.drf-akademie.de).

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