

Investment in Wingcopter – Providing Aviation-Grade Drone Technology and Drone Delivery as a Service.

DRONE FUND announces that DRONE FUND III (Official name; DRONE FUND III Investment Limited Partnership), managed by Kotaro Chiba and Soki Ohmae in Tokyo, Japan, has invested in Wingcopter GmbH (hereinafter Wingcopter), led by Tom Plümmer of Weiterstadt, Germany.



【About This Investment】

Wingcopter was founded in 2017 by Tom Plümmer, Jonathan Hesselbarth, and Ansgar Kadura, in order to develop solutions for the high-speed, low-cost delivery of goods in response to an imbalance between supply and demand in existing modes of transportation,

The company is dedicated to improving and saving the lives of people worldwide through meaningful commercial and humanitarian applications. The startup is particularly focused on optimizing medical supply chains. In the future, it will also deliver packages, tools, spare parts, as well as food and groceries.

Thanks to its patented tilt-rotor mechanism, the Wingcopter 198, Wingcopter's new flagship aircraft, can take off and land vertically like a multicopter, while flying long distances as efficiently and quickly as a fixed-wing aircraft, even in heavy rain and strong wind. It is also successful in reducing the operator costs by designing a system that allows one operator to operate multiple aircraft. With the world's first triple-drop delivery technology, the Wingcopter 198 is the most efficient delivery drone of its class.

Wingcopter has the best approach to certification systems with a balanced team led by CEO Tom Plümmer and CTO Jonathan Hesselbarth, along with an experienced executive team. It also has a well-equipped factory facility that is one of the most advanced in the industry – capable of producing thousands of Wingcopter delivery drones per year. The company was successful in designing a system and corresponding software that facilitates networked delivery rather than one-way delivery, which allows drone delivery at lower costs.



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DRONE FUND decided to make this investment based on;

- The possibility of Wingcopter becoming a market leader in medium- to long-distance drone delivery, that can provide value-added delivery tailored to customer needs at a low cost.
- Wingcopter has been successful in building partnerships with Japanese corporations such as ANA and a new partner that is to be announced very soon, and their aircraft has flown many times in Japan. Thus, DRONE FUND can also contribute to Wingcopter's operations in Japan and create further value together.

DRONE FUND will continue to accelerate investment in a wide range of services and solutions that will contribute to expanding the scope of the industrial drone market and deepening the industrial domain toward the realization of a “drone and air-mobility based society.”



<Wingcopter CEO Tom Plümmer's Comment>

This investment comes at a time when we are intensifying our efforts on the Japanese market. We are convinced that the Drone Fund team will open doors, allowing us to bring drone delivery services to more customers in Japan and beyond. It also makes us really proud that we are the only eVTOL drone company in their portfolio of about 50 investments. I believe the investment is testament to the fact that the Wingcopter 198 is really leading the way of delivery drone technology.



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< ANA Holdings Drone Project Director Mitsutoshi Nobuta's Comment >

The ANA Drone Project has conducted about 400 flights outside of visual range, and more than 600 flights including visual range and test flights and has been investigating the issues and demand for drone logistics, mainly in remote islands and mountainous areas.

When we were in the process of selecting an aircraft, we were considering a fixed-wing VTOL drone, which is superior to multicopter drones in terms of flight range and speed. We decided to partner with Wingcopter, which has a proven track record and excellent performance in several countries, to operate the aircraft in the demonstration.

In October 2019 and March 2021, we delivered medical supplies in Goto City, Nagasaki Prefecture, which is located in an isolated island region. Moreover, in September 2021, we operated a drone flight to and from an airport in Wakkanai City, Hokkaido, which experiences strong winds on many days throughout the year, for the purpose of connecting logistics between rural and urban areas. We will continue to progress the promotion of this business together with Wingcopter.



<Drone Fund GP Kotaro Chiba's Comment>

We have seen the air logistics network in Japan developing at an accelerated pace with the lifting of the ban on Level 3 flights in 2021. Wingcopter is one of the most reliable cutting-edge eVTOL hardware, software and AI providers in the world, with successful experience in Japan. We are honored to be able to invest in such a great team.

We look forward to working with the Wingcopter team to contribute to the development of drone logistics in Japan and abroad.

【Wingcopter Overview】

- Official name: Wingcopter GmbH
- Founder/Representative: Tom Plümmer
- Co-Founders: Jonathan Hesselbarth, Ansgar Kadura
- Headquarters: Weiterstadt, Germany
- Established: 2017
- Business: Manufacturing of aviation-grade drone technology and service provision for a wide range of drone deployments
- Website: <https://wingcopter.com/>

【DRONE FUND III Overview】

DRONE FUND is a venture capital specializing in drone and air mobility with the vision of a “drone and air mobility-based society.” Through existing funds, it has formed an investment portfolio of more than 40 startups from Japan and overseas.

The 3rd fund will broadly invest in drone and air mobility, and technologies that contribute to their social implementation.

- Official name: DRONE FUND III Investment Limited Partnership
- Managing company: DRONE FUND Inc.
- Representative: Kotaro Chiba, Soki Ohmae
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- Established: May, 2020
- Business: Investment in drone and air mobility-related startups
- Website: <http://dronefund.vc>

【Information】

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