Drone Vaccine Delivery Project Initiation Phase launched

By Anita Roberts

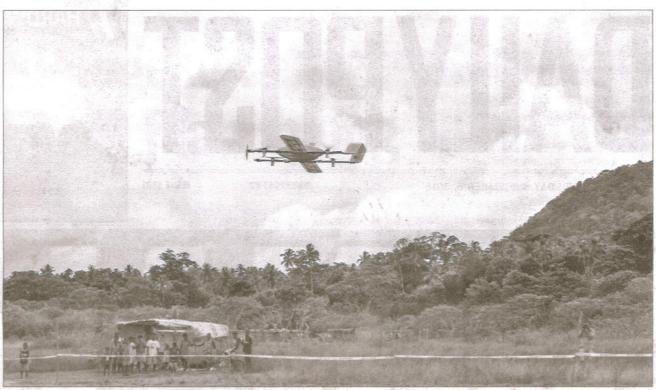
THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT to deliver lifesaving vaccines to vulnerable children in remote areas of Vanuatu using drones have finally been launched yesterday by the Minister of Health (MOH), Jack Norris Kalmet .

In a world first, the Government of Vanuatu has awarded three commercial contracts to the Wingcopter Holding GmbH & Co. KG from Germany and Australia's Swoop Aero Pty Ltd to get vaccines to a dozen areas.

These two drone companies have started conducting trials to test the use of drones in transporting vaccines in Vanuatu.

The use of drones to deliver vaccines in Vanuatu is considered the world's first trial with a potential to be replicated in other countries.

to children at remote locations due to the lack of adequate transportation and poor infrastructure makes the improve service delivery.



Drone taking off at Takara in North Efate yesterday.

The inability to deliver children in the remote islands region, Shelton Yett. needed vaccines from town of Vanuatu are immense, government turn to drones to United Nations International at risk," he said. Children's Emergency Fund

The challenges of reaching (UNICEF) in the Pacific launching yesterday that of Vanuatu and Australia,

nurses often walk several has the right to lifesaving in exploring new ways to get hours to deliver vaccines vaccines and this new vaccines safely where they Australia has provided to health clinics, said the technology is a step towards need to go, when they need Vt50 million for the drone representative for the reaching those children most to go".

Yett said during the project with the governments Commissioner, Susan Ryle.

"Every child in the world the Government of Vanuatu Commission in Port Vila.

"UNICEF is proud to support through the Australian High

The government of vaccine delivery trial, said UNICEF is implementing the the Deputy Australian High

Minister Kalmet said the government will continue to explore how it can increase the use of drone to other sectors as climate change and agriculture.

The initiative will help the government achieve the Universal Heath Coverage by 2030, he said.

"It is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal and the United Nations Pacific Strategy of 2018 to 2011," he added.

Minister Kalmet thanked the government of Australia and UNICEF for their technical and financial assistance.

The initial drone trials will be conducted over the offshore islands of north Efate from the old Takara airstrip before going to Epi, Sherpherds, Pentecost and Erromango.

Healthcare professionals, government representatives, teachers and children from Takara who attended yesterday's launching witnessed a real life demonstration of how drones are used to get vaccines to remote areas by the Wingcoter, the German drone company.