



AFD Software Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

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AFD gives away a Brand New Aircraft – for the people of Kalimantan

AFD Software Ltd tonight completed its celebration of 25 years in business by donating a brand new Kodiak 10-seater Aircraft for use by MAF in serving the people of Kalimantan, Indonesia.

This donation, combined with 44 other donations from £500-£25,000, made a total of over £1.1 million given away this year at the firm's annual charity event at Ramsey Golf Club.

“We have all been startled this year by the increases in energy costs, and living on an Island, we are well aware of how much we rely on our transport links” said Alison Dorricott, AFD Director. *“In Kalimantan, though, air travel isn't a luxury: it is a matter of life and death.”*

David Dorricott, MD and one of the founders of AFD, explained further: *“MAF operate a fleet of small aircraft in many of the world's poorest and most remote places, providing the only access for supplies and medical and health services. However the cost of providing the AvGas fuel for these aircraft, and the difficulties even of obtaining it, have been causing enormous problems for the operators.”*

“When we learned that a brand new, purpose-designed “bush” aircraft had been developed – with higher payload and range – and the benefit of running on much cheaper and more readily available Jet A1 fuel, we were really excited.”

Alison pointed out *“It is really great to be part of such a successful team – and we guess that buying an aircraft could be seen as a great measure of success. We all thought that buying one for someone else's benefit was a much more fitting way of celebrating than buying something for ourselves!”*

MAF's UK Chief Executive, Ruth Whitaker, flew to the Isle of Man especially for the presentation: *“MAF has been serving the people of Kalimantan since 1969. On this largely underdeveloped island, thousands live in isolation. Dense rain forests and impenetrable mountain ranges deny people access to even the most basic services such as healthcare and education and prevent access to the Gospel.*

Today, we are using a fleet of 7 aircraft to cross barriers and enable remote communities to be reached with vital medical help, physical support and Christian care. Many of the airstrips are challenging and it takes a special type of aircraft to

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operate in this harsh environment. The Kodiak is ideally suited to the rugged, mountainous terrain. We are extremely grateful for this gift which will help support the local communities, the work of the church and will make a real difference to the lives of the people of Kalimantan.”

Chris Astley, who is Technical Operations Manager of local Isle of Man aircraft service company EAM Ltd, at Ronaldsway, is MAF's local representative: *“As an aircraft engineer and long term supporter of MAF the Kodiak 100 provides a unique opportunity to address a number of technical and operational problems faced by MAF's current fleet and their dedicated team directly involved in flying operations in some of the world's most challenging environments.*

The Garmin G1000 Avionic installation will provide state of the art full glass cockpit and provide situational, navigational and full system awareness ergonomically: this will assist pilots and improve cockpit resource management and reduce fatigue and workload.

The Jet A1-consuming PT6A-34 Engine will provide 700 horse power efficiently and gives the Kodiak a range of approximately 1000 nautical miles over a flight duration of 5.9 hours. It's very tough and it's built for purpose and I just can't wait to get my hands dirty maintaining it! AFD's donation of an Aircraft is an amazingly generous act and one that I feel privileged to be involved with. Its stopover here on the Isle of Man en-route to the people of Kalimantan will certainly excite the Aerospace community and seeing this remarkable plane on the runway at Ronaldsway is an answer to prayer.”

The AFD-donated Kodiak 100 is expected to be completed in early 2010, and it is hoped that it will visit the Island on her delivery trip from the manufacturer in the USA to Indonesia where she is to be based.

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Grueling Days!

Sweat, blood, and mud! That pretty much sums up the joys of trekking interior. Recently, my friend and fellow MAF pilot, Paul College, and I spent six grueling days deep in the jungles of northern Borneo. Our mission: to travel between various villages that we frequently fly to, using all possible means other than the normal one—the MAF airplane. The local Dayaks thought we were crazy. More than once we thought they were right!

There's a reason MAF flies out here. A typical flight between villages in the Krayan region where we trekked, usually takes 10 minutes or less. That same trip by foot, motorcycle or canoe is usually an absolutely exhausting one-to-three days of travel. During the course of our two, three-day trips, Paul and I passed through several different villages that depend on regular MAF service. If we had flown an MAF airplane on a round robin flight, passing through each of those same villages, we could have turned our sweaty, bloody, muddy, six-day journey into about 20 minutes of comfortable flight time. There's really no comparison!

Besides satisfying some strange, primordial, inner-drive to "conquer" the jungle, our expeditions served several other perhaps "higher" purposes. For starters, MAF has been here for years, and to our knowledge no other pilots have ever spent that much time and effort traveling the "old-fashioned" way between villages. As word quickly spread throughout the interior that we were serious in our endeavors and were actually making it alive to the villages, the people came out in droves to greet and congratulate us. Suddenly they seemed to feel a special connection with us, because now we knew the jungle trails.

Often, there's not room on the plane for everyone who wants to go along... we just don't have the time and resources to meet all the needs. That means that we frequently make decisions that result in some folks having to hike for several days as opposed to riding for 10 minutes with MAF. Though we'll still be making those tough decisions, we now have a new understanding of just what that entails, if we have to cancel a flight, or just can't fit everyone onboard. I think the people are more understanding now, knowing that we've also done it the hard way!

Each evening we also had the opportunity to visit for hours with various friends, pastors, and elders in the villages, as we'd sit around the cooking fire drinking syrupy coffee, and munching on everything from jungle deer and wild pork, to river ferns and little fried fish that are eaten whole. As usual, the people were excessively generous, and extremely grateful for our taking the time to stay with them. It was our hope that we would be an encouragement and blessing to them. I know they were to us! After doing a trip like this, there's no doubt about the need for MAF here in the jungles of Kalimantan, Indonesia!

Dave Forney, MAF, May 2008

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Photographs, video clips and fact sheets of the Kodiak Aircraft, Kalimantan and MAF's work there can be obtained on our special press web site:

www.afd.co.uk/press

User name AFDP
Password Kodiak

Members of the media are welcome to attend the charity presentation, which is to be held at Ramsey Golf Club on Thursday 4th December 2008, beginning at 7.00pm. Directors David & Alison Dorricott, MAF Chief Executive Ruth Whitaker and MAF local representative Chris Astley will be available for interview.

Photographs of the presentation evening will be available by email. Please email: hilary.borthwick@afd.co.uk

AFD Interviews and Further Details:

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Further information on AFD Group businesses can be found on the following websites:

Friends & Heroes www.friendsandheroes.com and www.friendsandheroes.tv
AFD Software Ltd www.afd.co.uk
Spring Harvest Holidays www.springharvestholidays.com

Further information on MAF

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Further information on the Kodiak 100 Aircraft

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