



The Dutch ‘Lifeliners’

As reported by Dutch hospital trauma centres over the last few years, their four Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) helicopters have made some 9700 emergency calls annually, providing urgent assistance. Considering the continuous annual growth trend, the Service is soon expected to reach the 10K emergency call milestone.

The *Dutch Trauma Helicopters*, also known as ‘Lifeliners’ have recently renewed their contract with the operator ANWB-Medical Air Assistance (part of the Royal Dutch Touring Club) for another six years with an additional extended option. The first two H-135s have been delivered and another two are expected to join the team this year (2020). The requirement for medical support by air in The Netherlands has been growing multiple fold after the arrival of an air ambulance in 2016 and the country is now running various programmes to include drones into the service.

ANWB-MAA operates four Lifeliner HEMS helicopters from stations in Amsterdam VU hospital (Lifeliner1), Rotterdam Airport (Lifeliner2), Volkel

Air Force Base (Lifeliner3) and Groningen Airport (Lifeliner4) and has two helicopters on reserve at ANWB-MAA HQ at Lelystad Airport. The reserve helicopters are used for pilot training and when an operational helicopter has to receive periodical

maintenance. As Petra van Saaze, Managing Director of ANWB-MAA explained, the company is responsible for the availability of the helicopter and its pilots for each of the four stations, throughout the year on a 24/7 bases.

