NEWS RELEASE

Please find here a news release issued today by Worldwide Flight Services (WFS)

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WFS WELCOMES U.S. AMBASSADOR TO OVERSEE ARRIVAL OF VENTILATORS IN JOHANNESBURG AS PART OF $40 MILLION OF COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) welcomed Lana Marks, the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, to its cargo terminal at Johannesburg’s O.R Tambo International Airport to personally oversee the arrival of 600kg of respirators donated by the United States to support the recovery of Covid-19 patients.

The Ambassador was joined by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) Manager for Cargo Security, Andrew Dhlakama, and USAID Mission Director, John Groarke, to witness the first shipment of US-made ventilators. The U.S. government is supplying up to 1,000 much-needed ventilators and accompanying equipment to South Africa to assist with its national response to the coronavirus as part of a $40 million donation.

The ventilators are highly specialised medical equipment used in intensive care units to support individuals whose lungs are not working adequately despite receiving oxygen, assisting them with their breathing as they recover. The ventilator donation is in addition to previously announced U.S. support to South Africa for its COVID-19 response, which has also included additional multi-million dollar funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and USAid, as well as donations of personal protective equipment from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Malcolm Tonkin, General Manager Cargo South Africa at WFS said: “We were honoured to welcome the U.S. Ambassador to see this vital equipment being handled by our team in Johannesburg. This is a tremendous response from the U.S. to South Africa’s call for more ventilator capacity and WFS is proud to have been able to offer its expertise to ensure the equipment was handled securely and sent to intensive care units in hospitals as quickly as possible, where it will be able to save many lives.”

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Photo credit: Brett Allen

About WFS

Founded in 1971 and headquartered in Paris, WFS (www.wfs.aero) is the world’s largest air cargo handler and one of the leading providers of ground handling and technical services with annual revenues of over EUR1.3 billion. Its 27,000 employees serve more than 270 airlines at 180 major airports in 22 countries on five continents.