





# Una manera de Bacer Europa



'Multifunctional Emergency, Civil Protection and Surveillance Helicopters'
Government of the Canary Islands

# Programa Operativo de Canarias

Año 2018

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

# GOOD PRACTICE

# MULTIFUNCTIONAL EMERGENCY, CIVIL PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE HELICOPTER PROJECT

## **Description of the operation:**

The project 'Multifunctional Emergency, Civil Protection and Surveillance Helicopters' consists of co-financing the costs of contracting multifunctional helicopters to cover the population in emergency situations and catastrophes of different kinds in the Canary Islands, where the problems of accessibility and territorial fragmentation are compounded by volcanic and seismic risks and marine pollution, among others.

In 2015, the Government of the Canary Islands, which is this project's manager, signed a contract for "Integral Public Service of Emergency Attention, Civil Protection and Surveillance by means of Multifunctional Helicopters and their Endowments", with the Temporary Joint Ventures Hispánica de aviación, S.A. and Europa Agroforestal, S.L (UTE HASA-EURAL), to provide coverage for the population in different types of emergency situations.

Under this agreement, the Air Unit of the Emergency and Rescue Group (GES) of the Government of the Canary Islands will provide a minimum of 6,000 flight hours over six years, according to Decree 195/2000 of 2 October, and whose operation is compulsory for serving the Public Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, according to Law 2/1985, on Civil Protection

This helicopter service is made up of five units, whose bases are in the islands of El Hierro, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, La Palma and Tenerife, and in La Gomera, only in the summer period. The helicopters have the necessary crew and equipment to attend to all the missions: pilot, co-pilot, crane operator, rescuers, crane, rescue and rescue equipment, fire extinguishing equipment and surveillance work materials.

Helicopter operations cover a wide range of missions: search and location of missing persons both at sea and on land, rescue of injured and trapped persons, location, extinction, surveillance and monitoring of forest fires, urgent transport of personnel and equipment for emergency care, surveillance and reconnaissance in high-risk situations, in which it is necessary to activate the Civil Protection Plan (PEVOLCA, PECMAR), and in the surveillance and observation of coastal areas and the coastline of the Canary Islands for the detection of solid and oleginous floating waste spills.

Eligible public expenditure: € 9,044,108.

ERDF aid (85% co-financing): € 7,692,038

In 2017 the helicopters had an impact on the number of flights: 996 flights to attend 431 interventions, with 323 rescue and save operations by land and sea.

# **Justification of Good Practice Criteria:**

# 1-High dissemination among beneficiaries and the general public.

News on the web portal of the Canary Islands Government: http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/dgse/feder-2014-2020/actuaciones-cofinanciadas-feder-2014-2020.html



#### MERCHANDASING.



# Information leaflet:



News on 'VERTICAL MAGAZINE'.



Video on the website and social media of 'Vertical Magazine': https://vimeo.com/293190341



Helicopter participation in various events related to Safety and Prevention: Fire Prevention Week in Arucas (Gran Canaria). 13-17 November 2017: Video (helicopter with logos of the EU and the slogan "The Canary Islands is Moving Forward with Europe": See minute: 03.43: https://youtu.be/rnLmXFOdNj4



# News on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/territoriocan/status/1014579147300130817



#### News on Facebook:



# News on digital press:



#### 2-Incorporation of innovative elements.

The fleet of helicopters is made up of Sokol model units, with better features than the models that previously operated (Bell 412), with the Canary Islands being the first Community with helicopters of these characteristics that are prepared for rapid intervention in situations of risk to public safety, the lives of people and property or common heritage. If necessary, they are prepared for the medicalisation of the wounded during transport. The current fleet allows for greater cargo capacity in the event of rescue and greater flight autonomy, factors which make it the most modern aircraft in Europe.

The Sokol helicopter model has 700 kilograms more capacity than the previous model, which allows to move more people and a greater capacity to throw water in forest fires. The capacity of the 'bambi', a water collection container, is 1,589 litres. Similarly, the cabin space is much larger than the previous model, which facilitates operating and handling stretchers, locating the victim and provides space for medical equipment and tools.

In short, the Sokol model increases safety in operations due to the fact that it has more power, gains in operability, and is able to access more altitudes and temperatures with equal weight and passengers; it has more autonomy, it has a three-point landing gear, which allows landing on steeper slopes and unprepared terrain; and it has shock absorbers that avoid resonances, allowing greater stability.

#### 3.- Adjustment of the results obtained to the established objectives.

This service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to the services indicated in the project description, the helicopters can act in situations of specific risks related to the geographical situation and the volcanic origin of the Canary Islands, such as volcanic and seismic events.

4.- It contributes to the resolution of a problem or weakness detected in the field of execution.

The five Sokol model aircraft are prepared for rapid intervention in situations of risk to public safety, the lives of people and property or common heritage. If necessary, the aircraft are prepared for medicalization, for the transfer of wounded in extremely serious cases.

## 5.- It has a high degree of coverage over the target population.

This service covers the entire territory of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, to serve both the resident population, estimated at 2,108,121 inhabitants in 2017, according to the Canarian Institute of Statistics, and fluctuating, with 15,975,507 tourists a year.

In 2017, by islands and number of interventions, Tenerife occupied the first place with 166 services, the majority in rescue operations by land and sea. It was followed by Gran Canaria, with 83 interventions; Fuerteventura, with 78; La Palma, with 59 services; El Hierro, with 34 services, and La Gomera, with 11 interventions, two of them rescue interventions.

# 6.- Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and nondiscrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

In the Specifications Sheet for the Contracting of the service, the contract holder stated that the service should be subject "to the provisions of the Treaty and the acts laid down therein, and shall be consistent with Community activities, policies and priorities in sustainable development and improvement of the environment, promoting growth, competitiveness, employment and social inclusion, as well as equality between men and women.

#### 7.- Synergies with other policies or public intervention instruments.

Helicopter operations are carried out at the request of the Telephone Service (1-1-2) of the Emergency and Security Coordination Centre, which reports to the Directorate General for Security and Emergencies of the Canary Islands Government, whose personnel receive emergency calls and activate the measures they consider appropriate. All interventions are included in the Canary Islands Government Emergency Plans (INFOCA, PEVOLCA, PECMAR), which are available for drills and exercises throughout the year.

In the majority of cases, in the places of the incidents in which the helicopters participate, there are other emergency resources, such as Local Police, Firefighters, Red Cross, Canary Islands Emergency Service, Lanzarote Rescue, Maritime Rescue and Emergency and Land Rescue Group, among others.

With regard to emergencies of a higher degree or level, such as forest fires or pollution and maritime accidents, emergency management is coordinated with different administrations, such as town halls, councils and the Spanish Government Delegation.







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