



EMED GROUP AND SKYPORTS DRONE SERVICES TRIAL MEDICAL COURIER SERVICES BY DRONE

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EMED Group and Skyports Drone Services have successfully completed a proof-of-concept project aimed at bringing additional innovation and sustainability benefits to medical courier services. Launched in June 2023, the four-week trial was run with East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, an existing customer of EMED Group. The project successfully transported over 400 pathology samples between two ESNEFT sites, highlighting how regular and recurring drone operations can support traditional medical courier services to further improve services for patients and healthcare professionals.

Craig Smith, Group CEO of EMED Group, explained: “This project is an important milestone highlighting innovative practices in the medical courier space. As a healthcare business, we are driven by our mission to improve the wellbeing of the communities we serve. This initiative is a great example of this. Not only does it provide tangible environmental benefits, but it also ensures that vital pathology samples and medical supplies are quickly and effectively transported between points of care with no risk to delays we often experience on the road network. All of this ultimately ensures our communities are that little bit healthier and those with medical needs are diagnosed more rapidly.”

Alex Brown, Director of Skyports Drone Services, commented: “We’re at a really important stage in

the scaling of medical drone logistics. Projects such as this one with EMED are helping pave the way for permanent operations by demonstrating just how safe, beneficial and effective drone services are – and the ease with which they can be implemented. Each delivery we complete ensures that a patient receives the care they need that bit quicker. At scale, the impact is transformational.”

Shelley Garrey, Service Lead - Support Services at East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, said: “This is a really exciting step in looking at new technologies to help deliver healthcare faster. Using drones mean patients will receive their results quicker while saving time and resources. This is an exciting pilot project and we hope we can look to expand in the future.”



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