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Daher announces Home Safe certification on its TBM 940

Daher today announced the certification of HomeSafe™ on its TBM 940, authorizing the availability of this emergency autoland system that would automatically bring the aircraft to a runway touchdown if the pilot becomes incapacitated.

HomeSafe™ received its approval from both the European Aviation Safety Authority (EASA) and U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airworthiness authorities.

“This is a game-changing step that expands flight safety from pilots to the passengers themselves, and it comes at a time when the value of life is more important than ever,” said Nicolas Chabbert, the Senior Vice President of Daher’s Aircraft Division. “Daher’s innovation has taken us to this turning point, and we are committed to providing the highest safety and protection to pilots, their families and passengers. Without a doubt, HomeSafe™ will become an aviation standard.”

Chabbert thanked the airworthiness authorities for their support in certifying HomeSafe™, adding that Daher is the first aircraft manufacturer to receive simultaneous dual certification from EASA and the FAA.

This certification clears the way for new deliveries of Daher’s top-of-the-line TBM 940 very fast turboprop version that are factory-equipped with the emergency autoland system. For TBM 940s already delivered in 2020, the aircraft will be upgraded at TBM service centers. Additionally, the system will be available for retrofit on all earlier production TBM 940 aircraft at an introductory price of \$85,000. HomeSafe™ is the ultimate step of the TBM e-copilot® concept evolution, after the autothrottle introduction on the TBM 940. It is based on Garmin’s Emergency Autoland system – available as a



part of the G3000 integrated flight deck – and has been under development for the TBM since 2017 by the airplane systems department at Daher’s Aircraft Division. This work included software implementation and an intensive flight test campaign that included two hundred automated landings.

The system is activated manually by an easily recognizable orange button atop the cockpit instrument panel, or semi-automatically if the Emergency Descent Mode (EDM) has been engaged. Its software integrates weather and terrain information to select the best airport for landing, taking into account fuel range and runway length.

When HomeSafe™ is activated, occupants of the aircraft are briefed by a safety video on the cockpit’s multifunction display. Air traffic control is informed of the situation by an automated message, and the transponder automatically is set to the emergency squawk code. The system provides inputs to the aircraft’s flight controls and adjusts engine power settings through the touchdown phase. During the landing rollout,

HomeSafe™ will simultaneously activate the landing gear brakes and shut down the engine.

The pilot can override the autoland function at any time to resume normal flight conditions by simply disconnecting the autopilot.

HomeSafe™ operates with systems and their functionality already integrated on the TBM 940, such as the autopilot and autothrottle, as well as functions of Daher’s TBM e-Copilot®: Enhanced Stability and Protection (ESP), the Emergency Descent Mode and automated de-icing detection. Inputs from the radar altimeter also are included.

Additional equipment incorporated on the TBM 940 for system functionality with HomeSafe™ includes electrical relays to enable automatic activation of the flaps, landing gear and landing lights. An emergency automatic braking system – activated by a Garmin servo control – complements the standard braking system, with an increased-capacity hydraulic fluid tank. A fuel shut-off valve also has been added to stop the engine by cutting off the fuel supply.



Embargoed until 00:01am GMT Thursday 13 August: WASH in schools report - Special focus on COVID-19

As schools worldwide struggle with reopening, the latest data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) reveal that 43 per cent of schools around the world lacked access to basic handwashing with soap and water in 2019 – a key condition for schools to be able to operate safely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Global school closures since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have presented an unprecedented challenge to children’s education and wellbeing,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. “We must prioritize children’s learning. This means making sure that schools are safe to reopen – including with access to hand hygiene, clean drinking water and safe sanitation.”

According to the report, around 818 million children lack basic handwashing facilities at their schools, which puts them at increased risk of COVID-19 and other transmittable diseases. More than one third of these children (295 million) are from sub-Saharan Africa. In the least developed countries, 7 out of 10 schools lack basic handwashing facilities and half of schools lack basic sanitation and water services.

The report stresses that governments seeking to control the spread of COVID-19 must balance the need for implementation of public health measures versus the associated social and economic impacts of lockdown measures. Evidence of

the negative impacts of prolonged school closures on children’s safety, wellbeing and learning are well-documented, the report says. “Access to water, sanitation and hygiene services is essential for effective infection prevention and control in all settings, including schools,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “It must be a major focus of government strategies for the safe reopening and operation of schools during the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.” Other key findings from the report include:

- Of the 818 million children who lacked a basic handwashing service at their school, 355 million went to schools which had facilities with water but no soap, and 462 million to schools which had no facilities or water available for handwashing.

- In the 60 countries at highest risk of health and humanitarian crises due to COVID-19, 3 in 4 children lacked basic handwashing service at their school at the start of the outbreak; half of all children lacked basic water service; and more than half lacked basic sanitation service.

- 1 in 3 schools worldwide had either limited drinking water service or no drinking water service at all.

- 698 million children lacked basic sanitation service at their school.

The report identifies several resources necessary for COVID-19 prevention and control in schools, including 10 immediate actions

New Aircraft Ownership Lifecycle Podcast Launched Today by Asset Insight

Asset Insight today announced the launch of a new podcast series, available through the company’s website (www.assetinsight.com) and across all podcast platforms, free of charge. The library of episodes is stocked with 15 to 30-minute sessions focused on all segments of the Business & General Aviation aircraft ownership lifecycle – Acquiring, Financing, Operating, Maintaining and Selling. Host Anthony

Kioussis visits with expert guests from numerous industry organizations and sectors who offer best practices, timely advice, proven principles, and explore specific aspects of the business aviation industry.

The Asset Insight podcast library presently features 8 episodes, including sessions with Jay Mesinger at Mesinger Jets; Jim Blessing at Air Fleet Capital; Shelly Svoren at First Republic

Bank; Lee Rohde at Essex Aviation; Jim Simpson at First Republic Bank; René Bangelsdorf at Charlie Bravo Aviation; Janine Iannarelli at Par Avion Ltd; and Ryan Waguespack with NATA. More podcasts will be made available each week.

Asset Insight is in a unique position to bring aviation professionals together to hold timely discussions in short, interesting, educational and

entertaining on-demand podcasts.” said Tony Kioussis, president of Asset Insight, LLC and host of the series. “This new aviation podcast series offers our community the opportunity to select episodes and topics on their schedule, and according to their interest and business segment. As many of us work from home to maintain safe social distancing, our podcasts allow people to remain connected. The podcasts can also assist new personnel



entering the industry - people that would otherwise find it challenging to secure such information.”

IADA Accepting Applications to Become Accredited Used Aircraft Sales Dealers

The International Aircraft Dealers Association (IADA) is accepting applications from aircraft dealers to be accredited through the organization's independent accrediting process.

"We have 45 of the unquestioned best preowned aircraft expert dealers anywhere in the world who are accredited by the organization to be the 'top guns' of our industry," said IADA Executive Director Wayne Starling. "And we are open for new dealers who have the professionalism and expertise to be a part of IADA. Our entire 110-member organization is a major player in the overall aviation industry, with total sales of \$145 billion and over 350,000 employees," he added.

"Despite the challenges of a very serious pandemic that is wreaking havoc on the world's populations and impacting aviation travel in so many ways, our industry is adapting to the continually evolving markets with responsibility and a clear focus on the future health of business flying," Starling said. "In response to the changing market conditions we are still writing contracts to



bring aircraft to market and to acquire specific aircraft to meet the changing needs of business flyers."

Dealers who wish to be accredited by IADA can learn more about the standards and apply by going to <https://iada.aero/accreditation>. The industry's only independent accreditation and certification process was developed by Joseph Allan and Associates Aviation Consulting in conjunction with the IADA Board of Directors. The IADA Board of Directors is responsible for voting on members' initial membership and

re-accreditation applications. Each IADA accredited dealer organization must have a minimum of five consecutive years of established business activity as an aircraft dealer.

An approved aircraft dealer has the capability of representing a variety of customers and industry stakeholders, and as such, must be considered a reputable organization within the aviation industry. For accreditation purposes, an aircraft dealer must also meet certain size and volume standards.

Embargoed until 00:01am GMT Thursday 13 August: WASH in schools report - Special focus on COVID-19

and safety checklists. It builds on guidelines on the safe reopening of schools issued by UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank with practical advice for national and local authorities on how to prepare for safe school reopening and keep children safe when they return to school. The guidelines include several WASH-related protocols on hygiene measures, use of personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfection, as well as providing access to clean water, handwashing stations with soap, and safe toilets.

UNICEF and WHO are committed to achieving equitable access to adequate WASH services worldwide. The agencies recently launched a joint initiative, Hand Hygiene for All, to support the most vulnerable communities with the means to protect their health and environment. It brings together international partners, national governments, public and private sectors, and civil society to ensure affordable products and services are available, especially in

disadvantaged areas. UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

The World Health Organization directs and coordinates international health within the United Nations system. Working with its 194 Member States, WHO's mission is to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene is responsible for monitoring global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and indicators relating drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The JMP produces national, regional and global estimates of progress on WASH in households, schools and health care facilities.

PATA announces dates for Virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) today announced that Virtual PATA Travel Mart (PTM) 2020 will take place from September 23 - 27.

Virtual PTM is a business-to-business travel contracting and virtual networking event that both mirrors and enhances the features of the long-standing PTM, which boasts over four decades of experience in connecting qualified international buyers and sellers from all of Asia and the Pacific region through pre-matched business appointments. Furthermore, Virtual PTM offers cost-effective seller booth fees at significantly below market rates.

"As some destinations have slowly restarted tourism through either domestic or regional travel, eventually international markets will follow. Virtual PTM allows business to begin exploring new opportunities and markets, particularly as travel behaviour and patterns will be dramatically different post COVID-19," said PATA CEO Dr. Mario Hardy. "Asia Pacific will be the leading force of tourism's global recovery from COVID-19, as both an inbound destination as well as a robust source market. In addition, organisations need to start negotiating for recovery in 2021 and Virtual PTM is the perfect place to begin. Therefore I invite all industry stakeholders to join us as we look towards a rapid, robust, and responsible renewal of the travel and tourism industry."

The event is being organised in in



conjunction with the Sichuan International Travel Expo with the support of the Leshan Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau and is powered by official virtual partner Dragon Trail Interactive.

Zhang Tong, Mayor of Leshan Municipal People's Government, said, "Sichuan, China, home to the giant panda, offers you an experience of a leisurely life. Leshan, a key world tourist destination, is always filled with a strong aroma of food and tea, the fragrance of books and the beautiful sea of flowers and noted for its mountains, Buddhas and celebrities. I sincerely hope you will get to know Leshan through various ways and come visit it soon. Your visit will certainly bring you a pleasant surprise and a unique experience."

The event will offer two full business days with a possibility of up to 50 appointments across all time zones from September 24-

25. There will also be two trade visitor days on September 26-27. Furthermore, there will be further networking opportunities at the interactive networking breaks, as well as opportunities to gain deeper insights into the industry at the presentation hall. Event delegates can also enjoy a 360° view of the Sichuan International Travel Expo through the Virtual PTM 2020 platform.

Dragon Trail Interactive Co-founder & CEO, George Cao, said, "We are excited to enter a new phase of cooperation with our old friend PATA by delivering the first PTM Online. In addition to delivering a full-scale virtual trade show, through PATA's partnership with the Leshan Government, we will live-stream forum sessions and other activities from the Sichuan International Travel Expo on the PTM Online platform. We believe this hybrid online-offline model for travel trade shows is the way of the future and are thrilled to be

involved in such an innovative project."

Virtual PTM 2020 highlights include:
Interactive Exhibition
Experience - Navigate an interactive map to browse sellers, submit matchmaking requests, view product presentations, and exchange contact information.
Video Meets - Set up time slots and request meetings supported by video calls, text and voice chat.
High-Quality Live Forums - Gain insights on travel recovery with live presentations and panels through the PTM Forums.
Buyer Incentives - Buyers have the opportunity to earn prizes by earning points and completing event missions.

Games & Giveaways - Join one of the virtual social games and get the chance to win some awesome travel giveaways and prizes from our sponsors and partners.
Sellers can enjoy an early bird rate for a Standard Booth Space at USD499 for PATA Members, USD599 for PATA Chapter Members, USD799 for non-members by August 15, 2020.

Virtual PATA Travel Mart is a one-stop-service to market to over +75,000 Chinese and international travel trade professionals, contract valuable new business and consolidate existing business relationships. Founded in 1951, the Pacific Asia Travel

Association (PATA) is a not-for-profit membership association that acts as a catalyst for the responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region. The Association provides aligned advocacy, insightful research and innovative events to its more than 800 member organisations, including 95 government, state and city tourism bodies, 20 international airlines and airports, 102 hospitality organisations and 70 educational institutions, as well as thousands of young tourism professional (YTP) members across the world. The PATA network also embraces the grassroots activism the PATA Chapters and Student Chapters, who organise numerous travel industry training programmes and business development events across the world. Thousands of travel professionals belong to the 35 local PATA Chapters worldwide, while hundreds of students are members of the 22 PATA Student Chapters globally. The PATA mPOWER platform delivers unrivalled data, forecasts and insights to members' desktops and mobile devices anywhere in the world. PATA's Head Office has been in Bangkok since 1998. The Association also has official offices or representation in Beijing and London. PATA's Annual Theme for the 2020 calendar year is 'Pa

IBTM announces Pancho Campo as first keynote speaker for IBTM World 2020

IBTM has announced that Pancho Campo, former tennis professional turned high profile events producer, will be the first keynote speaker for IBTM World 2020, which will take place in Barcelona from 1-3 December.

In a talk titled 'The future of events: Lessons learned from working with Barack Obama', Pancho will draw on his more than 30 years' experience organising major events to explore how to run an event with high profile attendees, as well as sharing practical solutions to overcome the unique challenges inherent to this type of event. Pancho will also discuss how event organisers can adapt in a COVID-19 world and give valuable insight into what events of the future might look like. Originally from Santiago, Chile, Pancho is a former ATP tennis professional and Olympic captain, who participated in the 1992 summer Olympics in Barcelona as a coach for the Chilean team. Pancho retired from tennis in 1995 to set up his events management company, Chrand Marketing & Events. He initially worked on sporting events such as the Davis Cup, the Pro Beach Soccer Tour and sports tournaments with fellow

celebrities Andre Agassi, Stefan Edberg, Pat Cash and Eric Cantona, but later expanded to music, promoting concerts with legendary music artists Sting, Enrique Iglesias and Pink Floyd.

Pancho's interest in the environment and climate change led him to meet former Vice-President Al Gore, with whom he went on to produce several world class conferences, as well as US President Barack Obama and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

During lockdown, Pancho produced a virtual climate change conference called Marbella Futuro 2020, one of the first online summits to take place under COVID-19. The one-day, non-profit event brought 61 speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds together over 35 panel sessions to discuss ideas and share inspiration.

Pancho says: "Although the current situation is worrying, the future is bright. I'm very much looking forward to attending IBTM World and discussing innovative ideas and where all these changes might take us as an industry."



David Thompson, Event Director, IBTM World, said: "Pancho is an inspiring and motivational speaker with a 'can do' attitude and a fantastic track record of producing events with some of the world's most high-profile celebrities and leaders. We know that his session will be insightful and valuable to attendees and we are delighted that he will be speaking at IBTM World."

Pancho Campo's session will take place on 9am on Thursday 3 December in IBTM World's Inspire Theatre, which forms part of the event's Knowledge Programme. Pancho is a member of the Thinking Heads speaker bureau.

MOMAD, Intergift, Bisutex and MadridJoya postpone their event for February 2021

The decision was reached between IFEMA and the organising committees of the respective trade fairs, so that these events can be held in a stronger economic environment that will guarantee a successful event for participants.

Madrid, 6 August 2020.- The fashion and consumer goods trade fairs MOMAD, Intergift, Bisutex and MadridJoya postpone their next event for 2021. The decision was taken by IFEMA and the organising committees of the four trade fairs, in order to offer a

stronger event next year, in an economic environment that is more favourable to each of the economic sectors, thus concentrating all of the organisation's work towards the next edition.

These trade fairs, which were planned to be held from the 16 to 20 September, have now confirmed their dates for next year. Specifically, the Intergift, Bisutex and MadridJoya trade fairs will be held starting on the 3 February 2021, and MOMAD will take place from the 4 to 6

February 2021.

The IFEMA trade shows maintain their goal of being a tool to support promote and internationalise the economy of these sectors and, therefore, the teams will concentrate their efforts on designing and planning the next edition. MOMAD, Intergift, Bisutex and MadridJoya will offer a marketing and business area that will help to reactivate the fashion, consumer goods, decoration and accessories sectors, in a setting that is better conducive to their purpose.



JET LINX PURCHASES MERIDIAN AIRCRAFT MANAGEMENT & AIR CHARTER

Becomes The Largest Private Jet Fleet Serving The New York Tri-State Metropolitan Area

Jet Linx the leading private jet management and jet card membership company in the United States, continued its strategic expansion in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut tri-state region by acquiring Meridian's Aircraft Management and Air Charter business. Meridian is a full-service private aviation company headquartered at Teterboro Airport. While the terms of the transaction were not disclosed, the acquisition encompasses a fleet of 23 long range and short range private jet aircraft including Bombardier Global Express 6000 and 5000s, Gulfstream G550s, GVs, G450s, GIVSPs, Dassault Falcon 7Xs and 2000s, and Embraer Phenom 300s, among others. Upon closing the transaction, Jet Linx will become the largest private jet management and jet card membership company in the tri-state region and the second-largest aircraft management company in the United States with over 120 aircraft and 19 locations nationwide (FAA Part 135).

"This acquisition is a significant step in our strategic plan as we continue to enhance our fleet and flight operations serving the New York tri-state area and further develop the Company as the leader in private jet travel. It could also not be better timed as it follows the grand opening of our flagship private terminal at Teterboro Airport last September," said Jamie Walker, President & CEO of Jet Linx Aviation. "It is an honor to have purchased Meridian Aircraft Management and Air Charter, one of the most admired, respected and trusted operators in the private jet industry. Like Jet Linx, Meridian is a family-owned business, and it will be our commitment and our privilege to continue their legacy of excellence, safety and service. This exemplifies and underscores our unwavering commitment to provide the highest standards of excellence and the finest service experience not only to our clients in the New York tri-state area, but nationwide, as Teterboro is the busiest private aviation airport in the U.S."

With heritage that dates back to 1946 at Teterboro Airport, Meridian is a full-service Fixed Base Operator (FBO) renowned for its enduring reputation for providing the New York metropolitan area with private aircraft fueling, hangaring, maintenance, management and charter services. Meridian has earned numerous industry awards and accolades over the years for its FBO services. As the longest continuously operating private aviation services company in the New York metropolitan area, Meridian will continue operating its FBO and aircraft maintenance businesses at Teterboro Airport and Hayward Executive Airport in California.

"Jet Linx aligns perfectly with Meridian's values, culture and

commitment to safety, and we could not be happier to have partnered with Jet Linx to purchase our aircraft management and charter business," said Ken Forester, Owner & CEO of Meridian. "It was important for us to find the right company who would be able to take our existing aircraft management and charter business to the next level, and Jet Linx was the obvious choice. We are excited to continue supporting Jet Linx, and our former aircraft management and charter customers, through our FBO and aircraft maintenance businesses going forward."

Jet Linx has become the leading private jet management and Jet Card company in the United States due to its unique and innovative business model. The company offers a far more personalized approach to guaranteed private jet travel solutions through individual, city specific, local operations. Jet Linx is committed to the highest and most stringent safety standards in the private aviation industry, and to the managed, strategic and sustained growth in private jet aircraft, jet card members and locations across the country.

2019 was a year of unprecedented achievement for Jet Linx; it established six new private base terminal locations across the country, and forged two groundbreaking and unprecedented partnerships – one with Forbes Travel Guide and the other with Southwest Airlines and CAE. The collaboration with Forbes Travel Guide – the world renowned and only independent, global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants and spas – made Jet Linx the "Official Private Aviation Company" of Forbes Travel Guide as well as the first and only company in private aviation to establish and implement Forbes Travel Guide's preeminent and unparalleled standards of service excellence. Jet Linx also collaborated with Forbes Travel Guide in the creation of customized, proprietary Jet Linx standards of service excellence for private aviation. Jet Linx joined forces with Southwest Airlines and CAE to create a groundbreaking pilot cadet program which provides a unique career pathway and lifecycle solution for pilots, facilitating entry into the aviation industry and providing opportunities for pilots to elevate and extend their careers. The company also acquired Elliott Aviation's Aircraft Management & Charter business in Minneapolis, and following the purchase of Meridian Aircraft Management and Air Charter, the Company intends to make additional acquisitions of other respected and established private jet management companies as an integral part of its growth strategy and continued expansion across the United States.



Queensland Mining & Engineering Exhibition

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2020
Mackay Showgrounds

A summer of art on Mykonos with Kaws, Banksy, Hirst, Condo and Jeff Koons headlining at HOFA Gallery

HOFA Gallery, in collaboration with ARTCELS, has announced the hugely successful blue-chip contemporary art exhibition, 'XXI', will make its long-awaited arrival in Mykonos this summer. Launching on 27 August in the heart of Mykonos Town, it will be the first time artists of this calibre have ever been exhibited together on the island, with the likes of Kaws, Banksy, Damien Hirst, George Condo and Jeff Koons headlining the exclusive show. 'XXI' will also be available to all virtually via HOFA Gallery's website, ensuring those who cannot come to the island this summer can still experience the show through a virtual Mykonos gallery setting. Hosted at HOFA's stunning new gallery space located a stone's throw from the famous port of Mykonos and prestigious destinations such as Nobu, the Belvedere, and the new Scorpios Restaurant, 'XXI' promises to be a highlight of the summer calendar for the sophisticated, cosmopolitan crowd who throng to the idyllic Cyclades island in 2020. Artworks by other elite international artists including Anthony James, Zhuang Hong Yi, Adam Parker Smith, and Daniel Arsham, among others, will also be featured as part of the 'XXI' exhibition portfolio, valued at over \$1M (USD) collectively. This portfolio is held by ARTCELS, a digital art investment platform designed to make blue-chip art investments more accessible to young, tech-savvy people around the world. Subscribers can buy shares in the carefully curated portfolio of blue-chip artworks, under the visionary art brokerage of the ARTCELS

team, and then enjoy their investments through global exhibitions. ARTCELS was launched in February 2020 at the star-studded premiere of 'XXI' in Mayfair, London, and has since garnered many subscribers leading to record uptake of their limited asset shares. Though the scheduled Mykonos debut will happen 4 months later than initially planned, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown, ARTCELS' founders are optimistic that the exhibition of 'XXI' at the luxurious Greek tourist destination will attract the diverse mix of art lovers, investors, and enthusiasts whose interests the investment platform was designed to serve. Commenting on the upcoming exhibition in Mykonos, HOFA and ARTCELS co-founder Elio D'Anna said, "After 3 very successful years in Nammos Village, we are delighted to be launching our new gallery space in Mykonos Town with such a high-profile exhibition, the likes of which has never been seen in Mykonos before."

He added, "Naturally, we will encourage social distancing and other measures to keep people safe. We will also offer private viewings to ensure our current and prospective investors can enjoy exclusive access to the 'XXI' exhibition in a safe and responsible way."

The 'XXI' exhibition launches at HOFA Gallery, Mykonos on 27 August until 10 September 2020. The show will also be available to see virtually from the 27 August



Embassy of France in the U.S.

THE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Statements made by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Spokesperson

Hungary – Meeting between Jean-Yves Le Drian and his counterpart (Paris,)

Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, will receive Peter Szijjarto, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for a working meeting on July 21. The two ministers will discuss the prospects for strengthening bilateral cooperation, notably in the areas of energy and defense. They will also discuss key international issues, especially Europe's ability to assert itself on the international stage, European defense and the Sahel. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, Jean-Yves Le Drian will also underscore France's desire to continue a meaningful dialogue with Hungary in order to help achieve a more united, mutually supportive and sovereign Europe, notably in the health, economic and digital fields. The minister will highlight the importance we attach to the European Union as a community of values, based on respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms in all member states.

Libya

What is your response to the comments made by U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs David Schenker, who, on Thursday, criticized the EU naval mission tasked with ensuring compliance with the arms embargo on Libya, deeming, like Turkey, that it was biased and not serious? The EU's Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is making a significant contribution to implementing the embargo on arms and illicit exports of petroleum imposed by the UN Security Council, in accordance with the conclusions of the Berlin Conference on This operation has air, sea and satellite resources in order to monitor, in an impartial manner, all flows, regardless of their origin or beneficiaries. It has demonstrated this through its actions, reflecting the commitment of the EU and France to resolving a conflict that jeopardizes European security interests. France is actively participating in this vital operation in a context of escalating foreign interference in the Libyan conflict, which we have condemned in the strongest terms. We call on all our partners - starting with the United States - to step up their efforts, as the EU is doing, in order to thwart the recurring violations of the arms

embargo and to help relaunch an inclusive political process in Libya under UN auspices. The external borders of the Schengen Area have been open to the residents of 15 countries since July 1.

1) Is this opening based on reciprocity? And in the opposite case, what are the political, economic and legal implications? 2) Japan extended its border restrictions until further notice. Are Japanese tourists permitted to visit France?

On the basis of the recommendations adopted by the EU Council on June 30 and July 16, France decided to lift restrictions at its external borders to people arriving from several third countries determined on the basis of health criteria. The list of countries will be reexamined regularly with our European partners and will take into account changes in their respective health situations.

As for the rules for entering French territory, we refer you to the Interior Ministry.

Conversation between the minister for Europe and foreign affairs and Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla, Kosovo's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (Paris -)

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian spoke by phone with Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla, Kosovo's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, on Wednesday, July 29. This conversation follows on from the visit to France on July 7 by Kosovo's Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti. The two ministers expressed their support for the EU's mediation with respect to the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, relaunched at the Paris summit on July 10, with the aim of reaching a comprehensive, definitive and legally binding agreement. Mr. Le Drian also told his counterpart that France will send medical assistance to Kosovo to combat the Covid-19 epidemic. It will be delivered in the next few weeks by the ministry's Crisis and Support Center and will be in addition to the assistance provided by the EU to the Western Balkan states, notably to Kosovo. Japan Is France negotiating with Japan on the reciprocal opening of borders? When will it be possible to travel between the two countries again? Based on the recommendations

adopted by the Council of the European Union on June 30 and July 16, 2020, France has decided to lift the restrictions imposed on entry to its external borders of the European area for persons arriving from several third countries identified on the basis of certain health criteria, including Japan. This list of countries is subject to regular review, in coordination with our European partners, while taking into account changes in their respective health situations and conditions of reciprocity. The restrictions instituted by the Japanese authorities on entering their country have a significant impact on both foreign residents and the activities of French companies. Together with our European and G7 partners, we are engaged in a dialogue with the Japanese Government aimed at softening these measures so that French and European residents can regain their freedom of movement while observing health precautions. Throughout Europe, Japanese residents are treated like our own citizens with respect to border restrictions.

EU – Cyberattacks Does France support European sanctions against China, Russia and North Korea in regard to cyberattacks?

The 27 EU member states, with France's support, unanimously adopted sanctions against the perpetrators of cyberattacks targeting European interests and undermining our security. These sanctions fall within the framework of the cyber sanctions regime adopted on May 17, 2019, and actively supported by France, and its one-year renewal on May 14.

We welcome this unanimous decision; regardless of where they come from, the perpetrators of cyberattacks on the EU and its member states must know that their actions will not go unpunished.

The diverse geographical origins of the individuals and entities designated for this first round of sanctions underscores our overall grasp of cyber threats and our determination to face up to them, regardless of their origin and without focusing on a single nation in particular. This action is therefore consistent with the global nature of this European sanctions regime.

France reaffirms its dedication and active commitment to promoting a cyberspace that is free, open and safe, and in which international law fully applies

Belarus

What is your assessment of the presidential election held on Sunday in Belarus?

The incumbent, Alexander Lukashenko, declared himself the winner with 80% of the vote while the opposition claimed to have won a "majority."

We remind you of the statement by the foreign ministers of the Weimar Triangle (France-Germany-Poland) on August 7. We had already expressed our concern over voting conditions in the absence of monitors from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the parliamentary assemblies of the OSCE and Council of Europe.

The results must be made public in a way that is both complete and transparent.

We were also concerned by the violence perpetrated against Belarusian citizens who came out to protest after polling places were closed, and call for the utmost restraint.

Hong Kong Does France share the EU's concern with respect to the national security law in Hong Kong?

Do you think that the measures adopted by Europe last week are enough? Has France decided to suspend its extradition treaty? Please refer to recent statements. As the minister for Europe and foreign affairs recently reiterated, the national security law in Hong Kong is a change that compromises the inherited framework of the 1997 handover. It calls into question the "one country, two systems" principle and the respect for Hong Kong's "high degree of autonomy" and related fundamental freedoms. This law also directly affects our citizens and our companies. The EU has agreed on options for drawing the consequences of the new situation in Hong Kong. Indeed, the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions expressing its deep concern on July 28. These conclusions reaffirmed EU support for Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy, in accordance with the "one country, two systems" principle, as well as the EU's solidarity with Hong Kong's population, while adopting a coordinated set of measures in various areas including visa and mobility policies, efforts to support civil society, notably through scholarships and academic exchanges, the export of certain equipment and sensitive technologies and the implementation of extradition agreements and other relevant agreements between member states and Hong Kong. With respect to this last point, and in light of the most recent developments, as things stand, France will not ratify the extradition agreement signed on May 4, 2017, between France and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Following the decision by the Hong Kong authorities to postpone the legislative elections, France underscores the vital importance of holding the elections as swiftly as possible under conditions that will allow sincere democratic expression, in

accordance with the rights and freedoms guaranteed by Hong Kong's Basic Law

.Iraq What is France's response following the Turkish drone strike on August 11 which killed two Iraqi border guards?

France deplores this serious development, on which full light must be shed. As the minister for Europe and foreign affairs reiterated to his Iraqi counterpart on July 16 in Baghdad, France is deeply attached to full respect for Iraq's sovereignty. France condemns any violation of this sovereignty.

Niger – Reminder of the communiqué issued by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs (August)

I utterly condemn the deadly attack against a group of humanitarian workers yesterday in the Kouré area in Niger. I extend my condolences to the families and friends of the victims who were murdered in a cowardly attack, as well as to the Nigerien authorities and people. The perpetrators of this despicable attack must be held accountable.

The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs' Crisis and Support Center and the Embassy of France in Niamey are fully mobilized, in close coordination with the Nigerien authorities and the NGO, ACTED, in order to provide all the necessary support and assistance to the victims' families at this tragic time. France is determined to ensure that the imperative to protect humanitarian and health workers is respected. As President Macron reaffirmed during his discussion with his Nigerien counterpart, every effort is being and will be made to clarify the circumstances of this deadly attack. Our two countries remain determined to continue the joint fight against terrorist groups in the Sahel. Following yesterday's attack in Niger against members of the NGO ACTED, will French troops adjust their deployment and action in the region? Will you change the travel advisory for the area? Do you know if this attack was specifically targeted against French citizens? Please refer to the communiqué issued by the minister today

Hong Kong

Do you have any comment on the arrest of the Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai under the guise of the security law? We learned of Jimmy Lai's arrest and detention in Hong Kong and of the search of the premises of his Apple Daily newspaper on the basis of the national security law. France reaffirms its commitment to the freedom of the press and opinion worldwide. It demands that all of Mr. Lai's rights be respected. As the EU emphasized, respect for human rights and fundamental liberties is a central tenet of the Basic Law and the "one country two systems" principle.

Ontario Providing Municipalities with up to \$1.6 Billion in First Round of Emergency Funding

Assistance Will Help Ensure the Delivery of Critical Public Services During COVID-19

The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, is delivering on its commitment to provide up to \$4 billion in urgently needed one-time assistance to Ontario's 444 municipalities. Municipalities will be provided with up to \$1.6 billion as part of the first round of emergency funding under the Safe Restart Agreement. This funding will help municipalities protect the health and well-being of the people of Ontario, while continuing to deliver critical public services, such as public transit and shelters, as the province continues down the path of renewal, growth and economic recovery.

Through the Safe Restart Agreement with the federal government, \$695 million will help municipalities address operating pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic through the first round of emergency funding, and over \$660 million will support transit systems. The province is also providing an additional \$212 million through the Social Services Relief Fund to help vulnerable people find shelter. The details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford, Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, Kinga Surma, Associate Minister of Transportation (GTA), and Jim McDonell, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have had the backs of our municipalities, which is why we are announcing up to \$1.6 billion in critical funding today to help strengthen our communities and safely restart our economy," said Premier Ford. "This first round of funding will address the most urgent needs of our communities, ensuring critical services like transit and shelters are there when

people need them most."

"Municipalities are on the front lines of a safe restart to our economy. That's why we're working with Ontario, and all the provinces and territories, to ensure communities have the support they need to help Canadians through the next phase of this crisis," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "Here in Ontario, this funding will allow municipalities to offer critical public services, like public transportation and shelters, while they help protect against potential future waves of the virus.

Building a stronger and more resilient economy that works for everyone starts with keeping Canadians safe and healthy. Together, we will build on the progress we've made, and put Canadians first as we gradually and safely restart our economy." In Fall 2020, Ontario's 444 municipalities will receive \$695 million in Phase 1 funding to help address municipal operating pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will be allocated on a per household basis and would be shared 50/50 between upper- and lower-tier municipalities. Up to \$695 million in additional funding will be available through Phase 2 to eligible municipalities after municipalities have provided the province with information on their estimated COVID-19 related financial pressures.

"The success of Ontario's municipalities is vital to our province's economic recovery," said Parliamentary Assistant Jim McDonell. "We've been working in partnership with municipalities from day one to understand the financial impacts of COVID-19, and this historic agreement will ensure they have the funding needed to address their most urgent local priorities."

In addition to the support for municipalities, the government is providing over \$660 million in the first phase of transit funding to the 110 municipalities with transit systems. The funding can be used to provide immediate relief from transit pressures, such as lower ridership, as well as for new costs due to COVID-19, such as enhanced cleaning and masks for staff. In the second phase, additional allocations will be provided based on expenses incurred to ensure the funding meets the needs of municipalities. As part of the Safe Restart Agreement with the federal government, up to \$2 billion is being provided to support public transit in Ontario. "Ontario's public transit systems are critical to supporting the economy and getting people where they need to go as the province gradually reopens," said Associate Minister Surma. "This historic agreement will help ensure that municipalities can continue to provide safe and reliable transit for the people of Ontario."

Ontario is also providing municipal service managers and Indigenous housing partners with an additional \$212 million under the Social Services Relief Fund to help protect vulnerable people from COVID-19. This investment can help them protect homeless shelter staff and residents, expand rent support programming and create longer-term housing solutions. This brings the government's total Social Services Relief Fund investment provided to service managers and Indigenous program administrators to \$510 million, and builds on the government's COVID-19 Action Plan to Protect Vulnerable Ontarians

reportedly left at least one person dead, seen many arrested and further eroded the democratic legitimacy of the vote. "The people of Belarus have demonstrated their desire for democracy through their unprecedented mobilization over the past few weeks. Free, fair and inclusive elections are critical to any functioning democracy. Prior to the election, Canada had voiced

its concern over the arrests of opposition candidates, prominent Belarusian bloggers and activists for participating in peaceful protests. We call on the government of Belarus to exercise restraint and uphold respect for human rights.

"Canada remains committed to the people of Belarus. We will continue to closely follow developments and call for the

Windsor-Essex to Join the Rest of Province in Stage 3

Following Public Health Advice Remains Critical as Ontario Continues Down the Road to Economic Recovery

Today, Premier Doug Ford announced the Ontario government is providing \$2 million to the Canadian Red Cross through the International Disaster Relief Program to help people and families affected by the tragic explosion that occurred in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4, 2020. This is one of the largest contributions the Ontario government has ever made towards an international humanitarian relief effort. "My heart breaks for the victims and the families affected by this terrible tragedy in Beirut," said Premier Ford. "Along with Ontario's Lebanese community, we stand with the people of Lebanon in this time of grief. To support immediate relief efforts, we are providing the Canadian Red Cross with significant financial support so they can assist the people and communities in most urgent need."

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the local medical officer of health, Windsor-Essex will be allowed to move into Stage 3 on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. The decision was based on positive local trends of key public health indicators, including lower transmission of COVID-19, ongoing hospital capacity, public health capacity to conduct rapid case and contact management, and a significant increase in testing.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit will join the rest of the province's 33 public health regions that entered into Stage 3 on July 17, 24 and 31, 2020 respectively.

"Thanks to the collective efforts of our frontline health care

workers, public health experts, and the people of Windsor-Essex, more businesses in the region can hang up their 'Open for Business' sign and more people can go back to work as of this Wednesday," said Premier Doug Ford. "As all of Ontario now enters into Stage 3, I ask everyone to remain on their guard and keep following the public health measures to protect the tremendous progress we've made and keep this deadly virus at bay."

"I want to take the time to thank each and every Ontarian for their efforts, sacrifice and hard work, the entire province will now be in Stage 3 effective this Wednesday," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This is an important milestone for the province in our fight against COVID-19 and one we can all be proud of. However, it's never been more important for each of us to remain vigilant in following all public health advice."

The Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health experts will continue to closely monitor the evolving situation across the province to advise when public health restrictions can be further loosened or if they need to be tightened.

It remains critically important for everyone to continue following public health advice as more businesses and services reopen in Stage 3. This includes practising physical distancing with those outside your household or social circle, wearing a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge or where it is mandatory to do so, staying home when ill, washing your hands frequently and thoroughly, and downloading the COVID Alert App.

Ontario Providing \$2 Million in Urgent Financial Support to Help Those Affected by the Beirut Explosion

The Ontario government's contribution will help the Red Cross prepare for and respond to humanitarian needs as the situation continues to evolve in Lebanon, including for mobile health outreach. The Red Cross is working to coordinate emergency relief and recovery efforts, getting help to people in affected areas as quickly as possible. From the moment of the explosion in Beirut, Red Cross personnel have been responding around the clock by providing emergency medical assistance, food, water, masks, gloves and other essential

relief items to assist the people impacted by this tragic event," said Conrad Sauvé, President and CEO of the Canadian Red Cross. "We are grateful to the Government of Ontario for their generous financial support, which will help the Red Cross to continue its critical work on the ground in Lebanon. The funding announced today will go a long way to assist with the immediate needs of the individuals and families affected by the explosion, and as they begin their road to recovery."

"We would like to express our

gratitude and appreciation to Premier Doug Ford and the Ontario provincial government," said Mr. Greg Bostajian, Honorary Consul of Lebanon in Toronto. "Their generous and historic contribution will help the Lebanese people on their road to recovery. On behalf of the diaspora of Lebanese Canadians living in Ontario, we are thankful for the humanitarian efforts of our leaders and our community. The support we have received is inspiring and reminds us how blessed we are to have two beautiful nations to call home."

Canada deeply concerned by violence following Belarus presidential elections

Ottawa, Ontario - Global Affairs Canada
The Honourable François-Philippe

Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today issued the following statement:

"Canada is deeply concerned by the actions of Belarusian authorities following yesterday's presidential elections which have

The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, is providing \$234.6 million in funding to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings. This funding will help support enhanced cleaning costs as well as health and safety requirements set out to support the reopening of licensed child care and early years programs. This funding is in addition to the

Ontario government's continued commitment to stabilize the child care sector as many Ontarians return to work.

The announcement was made today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education.

"My number one priority is the health and safety of our children. Thanks to our federal partners,

we're putting over \$230 million on the table as part of the Safe Restart Agreement to help deliver our plan to reopen child care safely at full capacity in September," said Premier Ford. "With these additional supports in place, we have the best plan anywhere in the country, informed by the best medical advice and science available. Parents can have peace of mind knowing that every measure has been taken to keep their children and the staff who care for them safe." The additional funding will help child care operators, EarlyON Child and Family Centres, and First Nations Child and Family Programs increase cleaning and infection control, ensure staff have access to personal protective equipment, promote physical distancing, purchase additional

Ontario Continues on the Path of Renewal, Growth, and Economic Recovery

Today, Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on Statistics Canada's monthly employment release:

"Economic growth and recovery remains a key priority for our government in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Today, Statistics Canada released its monthly employment numbers, which showed an employment increase in Ontario of 150,700 in July and follows gains of 377,900 jobs - 66,200 of them manufacturing - in the month of June.

These new employment numbers are so much more than a statistic: they represent business owners and workers who are back on the job, families getting back on their feet, and communities beginning to flourish once again. While these numbers are an

Ontario Investing \$6 Million to Boost the Fight Against Crime

Proceeds of Crime to Be Reinvested into 21 Frontline Community Safety Initiatives

The Ontario government is investing more than \$6 million over the next three years to help combat crime and build safer communities. The Proceeds of Crime Front-Line Policing Grant will be made available to 16 police services across the province to implement 21 crime prevention and community safety initiatives that help fight gun and gang violence, human trafficking, and sexual violence and harassment. The grant is supported with funds forfeited to the province during criminal prosecutions. "By cutting off the resources of these crooks and redirecting that money to our brave men and women in uniform, we will ensure our police can keep our streets safe and put violent criminals behind bars where they belong," said Premier Doug Ford. "Thanks to the relentless work of police

cleaning supplies, and support staffing needs.

"We are investing more in child care to ensure it is safe, accessible and affordable for working moms and dads," said Minister Lecce.

"This agreement will ensure funding continues to flow so that child care remains available to parents as they return to work today and into the future."

"The availability of affordable and high-quality child care will be key to ensuring Canadian parents can return to work and our economy can recover from this crisis," said Ahmed Hussen, Canada's Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. "The Government of Canada is committed to supporting the child care sector to ensure all Canadian families will have access to the quality child care they need."

indication that our economy is continuing to find its footing, the road of recovery will still be a long and difficult one. As the province gets back on the job, we will continue working with businesses to develop a comprehensive safety plan to better protect workers, customers and clients.

Over the last several months, our government has been working hand in hand with the people and businesses of Ontario to develop the right framework to safely reopen the economy and build a strong foundation for our future prosperity. From the introduction and passage of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act to the ongoing work of our Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee, we have a made-in-Ontario plan to create more opportunities and bring jobs and prosperity back to every corner of our province."

forces across the province, we're able to deliver \$6 million more to help combat the most heinous crimes."

Examples of initiatives to receive funding under the Proceeds of Crime Front-Line Policing Grant include:

- Providing training for frontline officers to help them better recognize
 - gang activity and gather intelligence on crime;
 - Adding community patrol officers to neighbourhoods experiencing a surge in gang-related violence or activity to strengthen relationships with community members and deter at-risk youth from entering gangs;
 - Developing and implementing a diversion program to help at-risk youth exit gangs;
 - Supporting covert operations run by police, supported by victim advocates, to identify

potential victims of human trafficking and hold offenders accountable;

- Providing enhanced trauma-informed training and interview techniques for frontline officers to interact with victims in a compassionate and thoughtful way;

- Bringing together municipal, First Nations and provincial police to improve community responses to human trafficking to help survivors access the supports they need to safely move forward with their lives; and

- Launching a comprehensive education campaigns targeting

Investing in the Future of Ontario's Tourism Industry

Government's investment will support projects and experiences so that the province is well positioned for recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak

The Ontario government is investing \$1.5 million through the new Tourism Economic Development Recovery Fund and offering promotional incentives at provincial attractions to help the province's tourism industry and welcome back visitors after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, made the announcement during a fireside chat with tourism stakeholders at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre earlier today.

"COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented, devastating impact on the tourism industry. Our sectors were hit first, the hardest, and will take the longest to recover following COVID-19," said Minister MacLeod. "This important investment through the new Tourism Economic Development and Recovery Fund will support Ontario's tourism industry to ensure it is well positioned to re-emerge, grow and once more showcase how we offer the world in one province."

The fund will support projects that develop innovative tourism products and experiences, drive private sector tourism investments, workforce development, and support tourism operators to learn more through tourism industry associations. As the province works with the tourism industry to reopen destinations, agencies and attractions, Ontario is also thanking frontline workers and welcoming back visitors by offering special promotions or discounts at several of the

Ontario Provides More Supports for Families of Children on the Autism Spectrum

Foundational family services are tailored to children's needs and stages of development

Ontario is providing families in the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) with services to support their child's ongoing learning and development. Foundational family services such as family

groups that are more susceptible to becoming victims of human trafficking, such as women in low-income groups, Indigenous and immigrant women, and at-risk youth.

"Crime should not pay and that is why we are standing up against criminals who prey on Ontario communities for profit," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones.

"We are working with law enforcement and their community partners to protect Ontarians through this investment to ramp up the fight against guns and gangs, human trafficking and sexual violence."

province's top tourist destinations. This summer, frontline workers can enjoy special rates or discounts at the following agencies and attractions:

Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) - Until August 16, 2020, frontline workers can sign up for a free Annual Pass providing access to all exhibitions and collection galleries for one year.

McMichael Canadian Art Collection (MCM) - Free parking and access to outdoor grounds is available every day to frontline workers until March 31, 2021.

Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) - Every Thursday, 2-for-1 admission to frontline workers at all Niagara Parks' attractions, heritage sites and the Falls Incline Railway, as well as 10 per cent off all culinary and retail purchases until September 7, 2020.

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) - Free general admission to the museum for frontline workers and three guests until August 30, 2020. Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) - Free general admission to all essential healthcare and emergency workers, as well as 25 per cent off general admission to their guests. RBG is also offering 14-month memberships for the price of a 12-month membership to all essential health care and emergency workers until September 7, 2020.

Huron Historical Parks - Complimentary admission to frontline workers on Fridays until September 6, 2020. General admission as of July 24, 2020 is \$5 per person (plus tax); children under 12 are free Fort William Historical Park - Free admission opportunities for frontline workers to the site and the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory on Fridays until September 6, 2020.

and peer mentoring, caregiver workshops and coaching will be tailored to the unique regional and cultural needs in different communities. These services will build on existing virtual and

remote options introduced during the COVID-19 outbreak. The first phase of foundational family services is part of the ongoing implementation of the new needs-based, sustainable and family-centred OAP.

"Feedback received through public consultations and the OAP Advisory Panel highlighted the importance of having ongoing capacity-building supports available to families," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "That's why family supports that put children at the centre of care are a key element of our new needs-based Ontario Autism Program. We know having virtual services as an option during this challenging time has become critical to families and service providers."

The first phase of foundational family services is launching August 7, 2020. Services will be offered at no cost in a variety of formats with individual and group supports and virtual and in-person sessions. Options may vary during the first phase of implementation as providers continue to expand their services and as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. For example, families may participate in an online group workshop to learn strategies to help toilet train their child and then receive one-on-one clinical follow-up afterward, or they may access coaching sessions to help with managing challenging behaviours. The services are based on a family's changing needs over time and their child's needs, strengths and developmental stage. "In these unprecedented times, the needs of children and youth on the autism spectrum and their families are greater than ever," said Marg Spoelstra, co-chair, OAP Advisory Panel. "It is encouraging to see the new foundational family services being implemented province-wide as recommended by the panel and now through the sustained efforts of the OAP Implementation Working Group."

Families can contact select Ontario Autism Program service providers to learn more about the types of supports currently available in their community. "Ontario's publicly supported providers are ready to increase their offerings for this essential component of the new OAP," said Jennifer Churchill, CEO of Empowered Kids Ontario - Enfants Avenir Ontario. "Building on the system that is in place aligns with the recommendations of the OAP Advisory Panel. The government is responding and that's good news." Since announcing the new needs-based Ontario Autism Program in December 2019, the ministry has launched a variety of interim early years supports focused on younger children on the waitlist to help build skills in social communication, engagement, speech and language and emotional regulation; made it easier for families to receive funding by streamlining and reducing administrative steps;



KALUCKA AND ADI TAKE POLAND AND INDONESIA A TOP THE SPEED KNOCKOUT PODIUM

Aleksandra Kalucka of Poland and Rahmad Adi of Indonesia marked their name in the history of Sport Climbing, becoming the first winners ever of the IFSC Connected Speed Knockout presented by Japan Airlines.

The two talented Speed climbers respectively bested Elizaveta Ivanova of Russia and Gianluca Zodda of Italy in the race for the gold medal, with Kalucka tapping the finish pad at 7,460" and Adi recording an impressive 5,770". The women's podium was completed by Italy's Giulia Randi, who beat Russia's Iuliia Kaplina in the small final; Kaplina's teammate Vladislav Deulin prevailed in the men's race for the bronze medal, beating his teammate Dmitrii Timofeev.

Adi also marked the best time at the end of the qualification round - stopping the clock at 5,762" - and climbed his way through the gold medal race by prevailing over his own teammates Aspar Jaelolo and Alfian Muhammad, along with

Deulin. In the women's ranking, instead, Kalucka finished 2nd behind Kaplina, besting Russia's Darya Kan, Indonesia Nurul Iqomah and Giulia Randi on her way to the final.

Aleksandra Kalucka said:

"This new format was strange for me because my emotions were between competition and training mode. It was also fun to have to wait for the results."

Rahmad Adi said:

"I'm very happy because this is the first competition of the year during the pandemic. This is a very good competition format for both myself and the Indonesian team. It's special for me."

The event was streamed as-live on Facebook and YouTube, and on August 3 will stream on Weibo, one of the two Chinese platforms that the IFSC recently landed on.

Athletes from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland and Russia competed in the initial qualification round, while the final phase of the event followed the same knockout pattern as a regular Speed World Cup.

Among the athletes that competed in the inaugural edition of the IFSC Connected Speed Knockout presented by Japan Airlines, France's Olympic qualified athlete Mickael Mawem, Indonesia's two-time World Cup gold medallist Alfian Muhammad and six-time World Cup medallist Aspar Jaelolo, Italy's reigning Speed World Champion Ludovico Fossali, Aleksandra Kalucka's twin sister Natalia - who won the Speed Youth World Championship in 2018, and Russia's Olympic qualified athlete Julia Kaplina and 2016 Speed World Champion Anna Tsyganova

One year out from Olympic marathon, World Athletics encouraged by racing conditions in Sapporo

As part of World Athletics' clean air initiative and its ongoing research into athletic performance in extreme environments, staff from the Health and Science department recorded environmental and air quality data along the Tokyo 2020 Olympic marathon course in Sapporo, Japan, on Saturday (8), exactly one year before the men's race is scheduled to take place.

At the invitation of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games organisers, Health and Science department director Dr Stéphane Bermon and department manager Dr Paolo Emilio Adami surveyed the course on electric bicycles, one carrying a portable Kunak Air Mobile Air Quality Station, which measures levels of PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter, ozone (O3) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2), four elements which research has shown to have a strong impact on health and athletic performance. Temperature and relative humidity were also monitored, and all the data, which was sampled every 10 seconds, stored in a secure cloud for further analysis.

For the first time, a black bulb equipped with thermal sensors was installed in the front of the bike, enabling the calculation of wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT), an index of heat stress. While the initial results are only preliminary, Dr. Adami, who commandeered the bike with the monitor, said the early indicators were positive.

"The wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) that we monitored so closely at the World Athletics Championships in Doha was just perfect here, on average 16.4°C (+/- 61.5°F), with a max of 17°C (+/- 62.6°F)," he said, well within the Category 1 white safe area. More than 15,000 data points were collected over three hours, each of them linked to its coordinates, that will help World Athletics researchers to better understand the air quality and heat that athletes would be exposed to, along the course, if there were no traffic restrictions.

"If the conditions are the same next year, the athletes will have a great race," Dr. Adami continued. "The section of the course that goes through the Hokkaido University Park is beautiful, shaded, between lily ponds and small creeks. That's the part of the course where the WBGT is lower due to the trees."

"In general the air quality was very good and it reflected a normal urban environment with regular traffic conditions." Miguel Escribano, Kunak's Business development manager, assisted with the monitoring from his office in Spain and also agreed

on a positive initial assessment. "Preliminary results show levels for all pollutants below the limit values recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), with the typical trends in urban environment caused by traffic emissions," Escribano said. "The thermal stress levels stayed in the safe area the entire time, with a tangible improvement each of the three times that the rider crossed the Hokkaido University Park."

Escribano said that ozone (O3) levels observed followed a typical pattern, increasing steadily through the early hours of the morning, due to the reaction of sunlight and other pollutants such as NO2.

The next step is the reconstruction of the GPS data to allow a more detailed analysis of the course with more spatial resolution, Escribano said.

"This is an extremely important exercise that will help World Athletics, Kunak Technologies and other partners improve the protocols and take a giant leap forward in the Clean Air programme."

Dr. Bermon and Dr. Adami were among the first recent visitors to Japan who did not need to go into quarantine upon arrival. Strict protocols were in place from arrival at the airport and throughout their entire stay.

About World Athletics' clean air initiative Working in partnership with UN Environment (UNEP), the World Athletics clean air initiative kicked off in September 2018 when the first air quality monitoring device was installed at the Stade Louis II in Monaco, followed by similar installations at stadiums in Addis Ababa, Sydney, Mexico City and Yokohama. That project will link many World Athletics-certified tracks around the world to create a real-time global air quality database.

Monaco's Herculis Diamond League - in collaboration with the Monegasque government, World Athletics and Stade Louis II - is the first athletics meeting to display live air quality data. Not only can it be used by athletes to determine the best times to train, it will also make athletes and spectators aware of air quality conditions as they prepare for the event.

With its feet firmly on the ground on five continents, the project ventured outside of stadiums for the first time at the Telcel Mexico City Marathon last August where the project hit the streets running. Later World Athletics monitored conditions at the EDP Valencia Marathon in December and the Marrakech Marathon in January.

WORLD ROWING MOVES TO NEW WEBSITE WITH SOTIC

The World Rowing Federation, FISA, following a competitive tender has selected a new online solution provider, British-based digital agency Sotic. Tabled to go live in January 2021, the new website will be based around a modern user-centric (UX) layout that will deliver to all visitors from mobile to desktop with full integration of World Rowing's social media platforms as well as enhanced video access. In preparation for the project World Rowing has surveyed key stakeholders and the wider rowing community. This review has been complemented by additional input from Sotic, who have a track record for delivering content led UX solutions to the top-level sports industry. The aim is to ensure the needs of all parts of the rowing family are met with the new site.

Sotic will develop the new site using their own custom framework and delivery platform built on top of WordPress CMS (content management system) and Amazon Web Services Cloud. The framework has been proven to specifically meet the demands and high flexibility of world federations, national governing bodies and professional sports clubs.

A key component will be a greatly enhanced search capability talking into account the information-dense nature of World Rowing's huge catalogue of content. The



Rowing's stakeholders and are focusing on producing a platform which places the needs of the user at the heart of its layout, design and

importance of information distribution during events has been highlighted and the new offering will include an enhanced live scoring system, live blogging and an integrated video experience.

"Our website is the hub of everything rowing, especially during World Rowing events," says and feedback has indicated that finding information easily and quickly is very important for our users. This is one of the key features that Sotic will deliver. They propose a modern, evolving "look and feel" which will enable our users to enjoy a personalised and engaging experience across devices and access our content seamlessly. Sotic has proven expertise in the sport technology sector and we are proud to have them join us as our partner."

Sotic are delighted to be working alongside World Rowing in developing their new online presence, says Sotic Operations Director, Kate Maunsell. "We've listened closely to World

functionality."

About World Rowing The World Rowing Federation, FISA is the international governing body for the sport of rowing. It is empowered by its 156-member national rowing federations. World Rowing sets the rules and regulations for the practice of the sport in all its forms including elite, para, coastal, masters and aspects of indoor rowing. FISA oversees World Rowing events. The current president is Jean-Christophe Rolland.

About Sotic Established in 2002, Sotic is an award-winning digital agency helping some of sports' biggest players deliver online. Sotic delivers value through digital in the form of fast, flexible, engaging and scalable solutions to world governing bodies, national federations and professional sports clubs, as well as league, tournament and event organisers.