**PRESS RELEASE**

**SPANISH TECHNOLOGY TO DESIGN AN AERIAL ROBOT FOR AUTOMATED DISINFECTION OF COVID-19 IN LOGISTIC ACTIVITY ZONES (LAZ)**

* **The Advanced Center for Aerospace Technologies (CATEC) collaborates in this project with the Andalusia-based technology company Airvant , dedicated to designing and marketing high added value solutions in the logistics field through the use of drones.**

* **This technological development is part of the PrevenZAL project , and will contribute to the improvement and updating of the COVID-19 disinfection protocols to avoid new outbreaks in the so-called Logistics Activity Zones (LAZ), guaranteeing health security in the rest of the supply chain.**

* **PrevenZAL is an initiative funded by the Spanish Center for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), to date one of the only 4 projects funded by the CDTI for the fight against COVID-19.**

**Seville, April 27**. The Covid-19 pandemic has generated an unprecedented health crisis and has fully impacted industrial activity in all sectors. Prevent the spread of the virus through new protocols to ensure safety health is the main objective in this new scenario that requires everyday new control measures and more actions in this regard.

The PrevenZAL project arises in this context , whose main objective is the design and development of an aerial robot that allows the automated disinfection of the COVID-19 from containers and palletized merchandise in the so-called Logistics Activity Zones (LAZ), which are specialized areas in merchandise storage and distribution activities, both for domestic market and for international trade.

An aerial robot that will be one hundred percent Spanish, because it will have technology developed by the Advanced Center for Aerospace Technologies (CATEC) and the Airvant company, both based in the Aerospace Technology Park, Aeropolis (located in Seville, Andalusia) . This robotic system will be agile, efficient and easy to implement, and it will be a new containment and security measure for the rest of the supply chain, in order to avoid new virus outbreaks.

CATEC be responsible for the design and development of smart navigation algorithms that will cover the advanced features of the aerial robot, and it will also support the mission interface design and supervision of the drone in testing validation and demonstration in LAZ.

Airvant brings its experience as a technology-based company specialized in the logistics sector, for which it designs high added value solutions through the application of drones. It will be in charge of carrying out the tasks associated with the identification of system requirements and will configure the disinfection protocols and standards that will be applied to the Logistics Activity Zones. In addition, it will perform the flights and tests in real environments to validate the new disinfection procedures and mission system developed.

The PrevenZAL project is funded by the Spanish Center for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), to date one of the only 4 projects funded by the CDTI for the fight against COVID-19. Work is already underway on the design and development of a first basic prototype that could be ready in a month. Another much more advanced prototype would be launched early next year.

**About FADA-CATEC**

CATEC is an advanced technology center that helps improving the competitiveness of aerospace companies through technological research and innovation, knowledge creation, technology transfer and advanced services. It is supported by the Andalusian Foundation for Aerospace Development (FADA), an entity that is chaired by the Andalusian Regional Ministry for Employment, Business and Commerce through the IDEA Agency, and has a staff of over 60 specialists and technicians. Over its ten-year history, it has become one of the most active technology centers in national and European R&D projects, with a special emphasis on developing advanced technologies and applications for advance manufacturing, Industry 4,0, unmanned aerial systems or drones (UAS/RPAS), aerial robotics, robotics and automation and non-destructive testing. It is currently working on more than 60 R&D projects, both with public research organizations and private companies. In several of them, it is spearheading initiatives under the European Commission's 7th Framework, Clean Sky and Horizon 2020 programs.

**Airvant**

Airvant is a technology-based company focused on the logistics sector, and it designs solutions with high added value through the application of drones. The company works in strategies for stock management, providing value information in a short time. To do this, Airvant applies different software techniques and sensors embedded in drones.

It provides solutions for the logistics sector, carrying out comprehensive operations that include planning, flight, data capture, treatment and analysis to convert it into valid information for warehouse management.

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