



## Press Release

### **Experience test pilot supports FREESKY GmbH in developing the “Gryphon” flying device**

Erich Jelitko has made over 3,300 parachute jumps

**Munich, 14 August 2006** – FREESKY GmbH is developing its globally unique “Skyray” flying system to be used by special units. The idea came from Erich Jelitko, an experienced skydiver who has made more than 3,300 jumps over the last 20 years. His main job is to head the “Parachutes and Aerial Delivery Systems” project for the Munich-based aviation company ESG. “As we at ESG have been procuring and further developing a modern high-altitude parachute system for the German Federal Armed Forces for several years now, and I am a trained paratrooper, it seemed natural for me to test a military application for the FREESKY wing”, says Jelitko. In 2004, the two companies agreed on a collaboration to further the development of the “Gryphon” military flight system.

“As a test pilot and experienced expert, Erich Jelitko is a great and valuable support for us. He’s knows like the back of his hand the stringent requirements of the armed forces as well as the possibilities and limitations of parachuting“, says the Managing Director of FREESKY, Alban Geissler. The 43-year-old Jelitko has numerous civil and military parachuting licences. He is also licensed to train skydivers and even parachuting trainers. For example, he is one of only a few parachutists in Germany licensed for accelerated free fall (AFF). Born in Munich, he is also on the testing committee of the German Parachute Association (DFV), which represents more than 6,300 parachutists. The family man is passionate about skydiving. “However, this is not a daredevil sport. It requires concentration, reflexes, body control and a sense of responsibility“, says Jelitko.

He has now made more than 50 jumps with the two “Gryphon” prototypes. Frank Carreras, a freelance test pilot, has made roughly the same number. The flights don’t only take place in Germany, however, where the weather tends to be



changeable. As Jelitko has parachuting licences for various other NATO states, the test crew also has the possibility of using foreign drop zones. “We get better with every jump”, says Erich Jelitko. After every landing, he informs FREESKY GmbH of the flight performance and gives tips for aerodynamic improvements. In this way, the system is constantly being refined. Ultimately, the “Gryphon” can also be flown by people who do not have years of experience like test pilot Erich Jelitko.

38 lines / 2.119 characters

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