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| **Worksheet**  *Austrian Federal Forestry Office tests heavy lift drone* |

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| **Instructions:**  Here is a selection of articles from orf.at. Read them and answer the following questions:   1. What is the current topic of the article? Has it already become real? What other applications are conceivable? 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this means of transport?   **Duration:** max. 7 minutes |

**Austrian Federal Forestry Office Tests Heavy Lift Drone**

orf.at, 14.06.2019

*The Austrian Federal Forestry Office is currently testing heavy lift drones for forestry work in Zell am See (Pinzgau). The aircraft easily transported 200 tree seedlings at an altitude of 1,700 metres above sea level and can thus help to carry out reforestations more easily and efficiently.*

"Drones are a great opportunity for the forestry industry to complete work faster and safer, said Rudolf Freidhager”, Austrian Federal Forestry Office Director. On its maiden flight, the two times two-metre cargo drone transported 15 kilograms of larch and spruce seedlings over 300 metres in height into a steep, remote protection forest area. The drone passed the test without any problems and could even move up to 80 kilograms or 1,000 seedlings. In 2018 alone, the Federal Forests planted around two million young larches, silver firs, spruces and sycamore maples in their forests.

**Forest workers enthusiastic about transport aid**

Up to now, mostly forestry workers have had to carry the young plants on their backs through the impassable and dangerous terrain, or expensive transport helicopters have had to be ordered. Remote-controlled drones are therefore regarded as a trend-setting alternative. The electrically powered cargo drones are comparatively quiet and emission-free and have the potential to become an environmentally and climate friendly means of transport in steep terrain. Freidhager said that drone use could reduce the risk of accidents during forestry work because employees could save themselves dangerous trips. The test application of the heavy lift drone has taken place in cooperation with the Zeller trade fair IONICA and the Nature Lovers. “

**Source:** orf.at (2019): Austrian Federal Forestry Office tests heavy lift drone, 14.06.2019, available at: https://salzburg.orf.at/stories/3000371/, accessed 07.07.2019