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Second leg around Africa via the west of

the continent

Rose-painted plane takes off again

On 3 February 2011, pilots Uwe Thomas Carstensen and Martin Grohganz will be taking off in Windhoek on the second leg of their flight round Africa. In top condition after maintenance, both the small, rose-painted plane and the two pilots are ready to continue their adventure. The pilots will continue to report on their experiences at www.globeflight-rallye.com.

From Windhoek in Namibia, the rest of the route will take them to Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Algeria. Carstensen believes that the weather will present particular aviation challenges: "The stormscope will help us to identify and fly around dangerous tropical storms. The flight over the Sahara is sure to be fascinating. However, we'll have to watch out for sand storms - which are a serious problem. We've already had a taste of nature at work during the flight to Lüderitz in Namibia".

All the overflight and landing permits have now been applied for, or obtained. Confirmation was also needed that supplies of aviation gasoline (avgas) were available en route. In some cases, hauliers have to be appointed to transport avgas to some of the desert airfields in trucks. The Africa-bound pilots are optimistic that everything will work out: "But, there are always things you can't predict", comments Carstensen. In light of recent events, the pilots will have to obtain information more frequently on the political development and safety in the various west African countries in order to avoid risks. If necessary they will have to change the route too.

After around 12,400 kilometres and about 60 hours of flying, Carstensen and Grohganz aim to be back in Hanover on 24 February.

During the first leg, the single-engine Cessna T206H landed in Croatia, Greece, Egypt, the Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa and Namibia. The pilots went sightseeing, but were



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→ site 2



also in Africa on an official mission. They visited German Foundation for World Population projects on sex education, family planning and health in Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania to find out about the work going on locally. The MUT Foundation, founded by Carstensen and his wife Maria, supports the DSW financially.

Captions

Photo 1: Pilot Uwe Thomas Carstensen in the cockpit

Photo 2: The rose-painted plane is ready for the second leg

Photo 3: Filling up the plane with avgas from canisters is a manual job

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