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MEDIA RELEASE

PROJECT370 VOLUNTEERS HOPE TO LOCATE MH370

An independent, non-profit organization, Project370, hopes to continue the sea search for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 aircraft.

Flight MH370, operated by a Boeing 777-200 aircraft, registered as 9M-MRO and carrying 239 people, disappeared on 8 March 2014. Three years after the event, it has not yet been found.

Following a thorough, but fruitless, search of a narrowly defined area of the South Indian Ocean by the Australian Transportation Safety Board in terms of its obligations under ICAO treaties, the Governments of Malaysia and Australia decided to suspend the search pending any new “specific” information regarding the aircraft's location.

Fearful that the suspension of the search may become permanent, a group of concerned world citizens is co-operating on a volunteer project to continue searching for the airliner.

The project is co-ordinated by Mark D Young, a South African aviation safety author and investigative journalist.

“The primary goal of aviation safety is to investigate the causes of accidents so as to prevent any possible recurrence.” says Mark. “It is vital that the where, who, how and why of every airline accident is investigated and reported upon. This is fundamental to ensuring the integrity of the global air transport system. Guessing at the last three aspects of any accident – as has been the case with MH370 from the very first day – is, in our view, reckless until you have the 'where?' Everything else follows.”

Explaining the foundation of the project, Mark adds: “There are many highly skilled people around the world who have been devoting considerable time and energy to the problem of where the aircraft landed-up.”

“Too often people sit back and bemoan the fact that governments and officials – whom we often refer to as 'they' - need to do things. The volunteers who initiated Project370, believed it was time - following the suspension of the official search announced in January - for world citizens to become the 'they' and take up the baton.”

“Many might think a sea survey is prohibitively expensive. The truth is that, using the best proprietary equipment from the world's most experienced contractor in the field, the survey phase can be accomplished rapidly for around US\$4 million. With an early result, perhaps even less than half of that. Thereafter a further US\$2.5 million may be needed to confirm the location using ROV units. Without the inertia, official salaries and other handicaps of governmental efforts, a volunteer project can, hopefully, provide closure on this accident in an economical manner.”

“Crowd funding offers concerned, active world citizens, as well as corporations, a chance to cooperate and contribute to making this goal a reality. Anyone who flies on, or indeed who operates a Boeing 777 aircraft, should be concerned that there is an, as yet, unresolved loss of that airliner type.”

“In spite of widely published rumours and guesses – none of which can be validated without the wreckage - there is no way of assuring the traveling public that such an occurrence cannot happen again. It is therefore vital that this accident is properly investigated.”

Project370's goal, set out in its founding documents, is solely to locate the aircraft wreckage. Once found, the information will be passed to the responsible authorities to attempt recovery of recorders and any other wreckage needed to complete their investigation.

Project370 is appealing to the world's public to assist the volunteers by offering donations towards the costs of the proposed sea surveys. Specialists who believe they have relevant skills to contribute, are also welcome to volunteer.

Learn more at: www.project370.org

You can find the group on Twitter at: @Project370 .

The crowd funding donation facility can be reached via the project website.

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About Project370

Project370 is a formal non-profit. It was established using internet co-operation and meeting technologies following the announcement of the cessation of official searches for flight MH370. Project370 is collating all available data on possible locations of 9M-MRO and – donations permitting - will commission sea surveys on a priority basis to scan identified areas until, it is hoped, the location of the aircraft can be determined.

All costs of running and establishing the entity thus far have been, and will be, absorbed by its volunteers.

Upon a successful conclusion of the project, the entity's founding documents and constitution provide for the donation of any surplus donations in its accounts to ICAO for the improvement of over-water tracking technology used on the world's civil aviation fleet.

Media inquiries:

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