

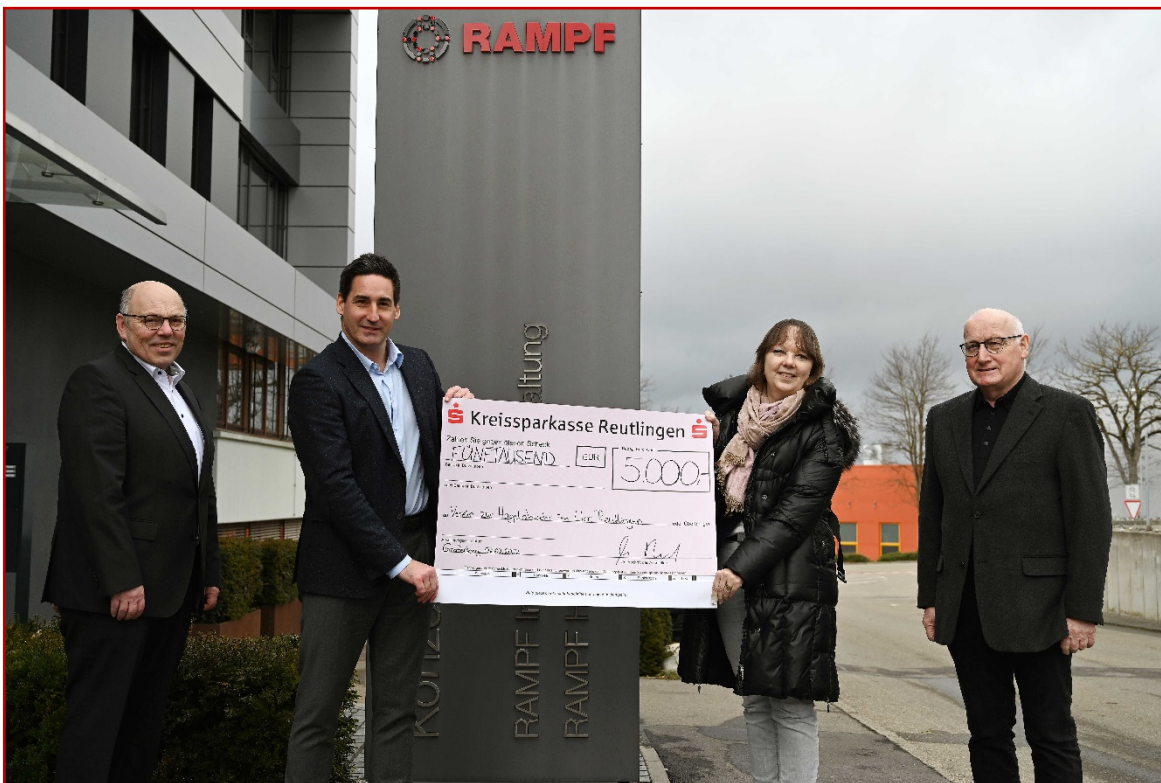
## Working Together to Prevent Storm Damage

RAMPF donates 5,000 euros to Verein zur Hagelabwehr im Landkreis Reutlingen (Cloud Seeding Association Reutlingen)

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**Grafenberg, February 24, 2022.** The international RAMPF Group is donating 5,000 euros to support the work of Verein zur Hagelabwehr im Landkreis Reutlingen (Cloud Seeding Association Reutlingen). This means the cloud seeding aircraft can be in action for 80 days in the coming storm season.



5,000 euros to support cloud seeding (left to right): Horst Bader (CEO of RAMPF Holding) and Matthias Rampf (CEO of RAMPF Group) present the check for their donation to Gabriele Gaiser (First Chairperson of Verein zur Hagelabwehr im Landkreis Reutlingen) and Treasurer Franz Eisele.

The storm of June 23, 2021, did more than cause significant damage in and around Reutlingen. It also brought back bad memories of July 28, 2013, when several hundred people were injured and vehicles, building fronts, roofs, and solar panels were battered by hailstones – some of which were as big as tennis balls.

Although the Verein zur Hagelabwehr im Landkreis Reutlingen was set up in 2014 in response to the storm of the century, its cloud seeding aircraft was not able to take off until early July in 2021. This was because the aircraft that the association hires was grounded due to engine damage.

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“This can’t happen again. That’s why we are so reliant on donations from companies and private individuals, as these will ensure our pilots and aircraft are always ready to go throughout the storm season from May till September,” says Gabriele Gaiser, First Chairperson of the Association.

### Donating as a gesture of solidarity

As things currently stand, finance is in place for 80 deployment days in 2022. “This means we’re ready to go from the beginning of June till mid-August,” says Franz Eisele, the Association’s Treasurer. However, he also indicates that he hopes more donations will come in to further expand the potential deployment time.

The international RAMPF Group, based in Grafenberg, is playing a part in this by donating 5,000 euros to the Association.

Matthias Rampf, CEO of the RAMPF Group, explains – “For one thing, the Association’s work is very important for us as a company. After all, extreme weather can affect our production reliability and cause considerable damage to buildings and vehicles. On top of that, this is a way for us to show our solidarity with the people of the Reutlingen district. After all, the cloud seeding aircraft could have significantly reduced the damage caused by the storms in 2013 and 2021.”



Equipped with a spraying mechanism, the Reutlingen association’s cloud seeding aircraft is based at Stuttgart airport. The pilots spread a mixture of silver iodide and acetone under the clouds. Updrafts then transfer the mixture into the storm clouds. This prevents large hailstones from forming, and although more hailstones are created in total, they are much smaller, and therefore cause less damage. © Markus Duwe

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