

Media Release

Sentosa pilots drone food delivery beyond its shores, as it looks into extending the Sentosa getaway to the Southern Islands

- *Latest pilot under the Sentosa x Enterprise Scheme sees Sentosa Development Corporation collaborating with ST Engineering and foodpanda*
- *The trial will study the feasibility and operational requirements of drone food deliveries to the Southern Islands, with the longer-term potential of giving guests more food options as they extend their Sentosa getaway to neighbouring islands*

Singapore, 23 March 2022 – In the latest pilot under the Sentosa x Enterprise Scheme (SES), Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) has teamed up with ST Engineering and foodpanda to pilot drone food delivery from Sentosa’s restaurants and eateries to St John’s Island, one of Singapore’s Southern Islands.

The pilot will study the feasibility and operational requirements of such drone food deliveries, including the payment system for the service. Through the pilot, SDC will also look into offering guests more food options in future, as they extend their Sentosa getaway to the other nearby Southern Islands via a short public ferry ride from the Sentosa Jetty @ Cove (Sentosa Cove Village).

The drone food delivery pilot is the eighth innovation project under the SES, a scheme aimed at enhancing Sentosa’s array of unique leisure offerings by providing opportunities for local enterprises to testbed innovative concepts and ideas on Sentosa. The pilot is also foodpanda’s continuation of its expansion into drone deliveries – following a successful trial in August 2020 where five packets of fried chicken were drone-delivered to an offshore vessel.

Drone food deliveries could also enable food and beverage (F&B) establishments in Sentosa to reach a broader base of customers in the Southern Islands which do not yet have F&B amenities. This also provides additional business support for participating Sentosa establishments as they emerge from the pandemic.

The drone food delivery pilot will be conducted from today until 9 April 2022, involving a select group of trial participants on St John’s Island. Under the pilot, participants will be able to order freshly prepared meals from a variety of participating F&B establishments in Sentosa via the foodpanda app. The meals would be transported by foodpanda riders to the take-off point at Tanjong Beach, from where the meals will take a seven-minute flight to a designated delivery point on St John’s Island.

The pilot programme leverages the DroNet solution by ST Engineering, which is a scalable drone operation platform approved by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore for Beyond-Visual-Line-of-Sight flight operations. The end-to-end platform combines drone robotics, networking, video analytics and data sharing for applications such as public security, perimeter security, asset inspection and lightweight deliveries. The pilot utilises ST Engineering’s in-house drone, DrN-35, which comes with a payload of up to 10kg and flight distance of up to 7km, as well as dual redundancy for power and sensors suite for enhanced reliability. As an additional safety measure, the flight path of the drone will be away from popular areas on Sentosa and St John’s Island.

“Over the course of the pandemic, we have been exploring innovative solutions that can support business establishments in Sentosa, while also enhancing the leisure experience of Sentosa’s guests, including the extension of leisure getaways to the Southern Islands via a public ferry service on weekends and public holidays from Sentosa Cove Village. Our latest SES pilot has the potential to achieve these twin objectives. We are excited to embark on this pilot with ST Engineering and foodpanda to test the viability of live ordering and stability of delivery via drones. We will study the outcome of this pilot. Should drone food deliveries be operationally and commercially feasible, we hope that this service can be extended to our guests visiting the neighbouring Southern Islands,” said Mr Lee Cheh Hsien, Divisional Director (Planning), SDC.

“Drones are the perfect solution when it comes to overcoming issues related to manpower shortages or logistically challenging tasks. The technology has great potential in reducing cost and saving time for last-mile delivery of food, especially to remote locations. As ST Engineering continues to unleash the potential of unmanned aircraft systems through its solution, DroNet, we are excited to be working with new and existing partners, SDC and foodpanda, in our latest endeavour to turn food delivery using drones into a reality,” said Mr Teong Soo Soon, Vice President and Head of Unmanned Air Systems, ST Engineering.

“Being in the business of convenience, we are always looking for ways to elevate the quick commerce experience – for our merchant partners, customers, and riders. Following our previous successful drone trial with ST Engineering, we are thrilled to now be working with Sentosa Development Corporation as well to realise drone deliveries for actual customer orders, and see this as an encouraging step forward to making drone deliveries a commercial reality. Besides expanding the reach of F&B merchant partners at Sentosa, the drone trial will also be able to provide individuals at St John’s Island with even more food options that were previously not available to them. Such drone deliveries also complement our rider fleet and allows us to deliver food to people in remote or previously inaccessible areas,” said Mr Miro Banovic, Head of Logistics, foodpanda Singapore.

Interested local enterprises or startups may submit their SES applications at <https://www.sentosa.gov.sg/partner-us/sentosa-enterprise/>



About Sentosa

Sentosa is Asia's leading leisure destination and Singapore's premier island resort getaway, located within 15 minutes from the central business and shopping districts. The island resort is managed by Sentosa Development Corporation, which works with various stakeholders in overseeing property investments, attractions development, and operation of the various leisure offerings and management of the residential precinct on the island.

The 500-hectare island resort is home to an exciting array of themed attractions, award-winning spa retreats, lush rainforests, golden sandy beaches, resort accommodations, world-renowned golf courses, a deep-water yachting marina and luxurious residences – making Sentosa a vibrant island resort for business and leisure. Making Sentosa its home, too, is Singapore's first integrated resort, Resorts World Sentosa, which operates South East Asia's first Universal Studios theme park.

Situated on the eastern end of Sentosa Island is Sentosa Cove, an exclusive oceanfront and residential enclave bustling with some 2,000 homes, romantic quayside restaurants, retail and specialty shops. The Island is also proud to be home to Sentosa Golf Club and its two acclaimed golf courses, The Serapong and The New Tanjong. Sentosa Golf Club hosts the SMBC Singapore Open and the HSBC Women's World Championship, featuring some of the world's best golf professionals.

Welcoming a growing number of local and international guests every year, Sentosa is an integral part of Singapore's goal to be a global destination to work, live and play. For more information, please visit: www.sentosa.com.sg.

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