

The Hague, Netherlands,  
20th March 2012

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Dutch engineer is the first man in history to fly like a bird with self-built wings**

**Engineer Jarno Smeets (31) is the first man in history to have made a successful short flight with his self-built wings modeled on the movement and structure of real bird wings. Assisted by an electronic system of his own design, Smeets took off from the ground in a park in The Hague last sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2012. The flight of an estimated hundred meters lasted about a minute, after which Smeets landed safely.**

#### **VIDEO link to testflight:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYW5G2kbrKk&list=UU7W2f5n5vYfM7TYVir3iPGw&feature=plcp>

#### **Wii controller & HTC smartphone**

Until now people had assumed that it was impossible to fly with bird-like wings using human muscle power. Smeets designed his own system to solve this problem, using two Wii controllers, the accelerometers from a HTC Wildfire S smartphone and Turnigy motors. This combined mechanism provided Smeets with extra power to move his 17m<sup>2</sup> wings and allowed him to move his arms freely without any risk of breaking them. The system is a wireless (haptic) concept. The wing itself was built out of a kite and carbon windsurf masts (as flightpins).

Human Bird Wings is an independent project initiated from the personal ambition and vision of Dutch engineer Jarno Smeets. "Ever since I was a little boy I have been inspired by pioneers like Otto Lilienthal, Leonardo da Vinci and also my own grandfather". Six months ago Smeets started researching. Smeets has developed and realized his wings with support from an independent team assembled under the Human Bird Wings project, sharing his progress through a well documented blog and YouTube channel. He has offered his followers an open source concept in building bird wings. Aided by helpful suggestions of his audience he was able to successfully finish his bird wings concept.

With this project Smeets has proven that modern technology and robotica can create realistic futures from seemingly impossible engineering dreams to fly like a bird

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*If you'd like more information about the project or contact Jarno Smeets directly you can call this phonenumber [+31 618369328](tel:+31618369328) or send an e-mail to [humanbirdwingsproject@gmail.com](mailto:humanbirdwingsproject@gmail.com)*

*For photo's and background information, please consult my projectwebsite:*

**Website:** <http://www.humanbirdwings.net/press/>

**YouTube channel:** [www.youtube.com/jarnosmeets80](http://www.youtube.com/jarnosmeets80)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/jarnosmeets80](http://www.twitter.com/jarnosmeets80)