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ABORTION PILLS WILL BE DELIVERED BY DRONE IN POLAND THIS WEEKEND

By **Lulu Chang** — June 24, 2015





In what may be the most innovative use of drone technology yet, women's rights activists are planning to deliver abortion pills to Poland by drone this weekend. In their press release, Women on Waves noted that despite the negative association developed between drones and warfare in recent times, the technology has also been used by companies like Google and Amazon to deliver packages. And it is this functionality that the women's rights group is adapting, with a very specific package in mind.

According to Women on Waves, whereas women throughout most of Europe have safe access to abortion and other reproductive health mechanisms, Poland, Ireland, and Malta remain behind the times, heavily restricting the practice. Only in cases where the mother's life is in danger, there is potential damage to the fetus,

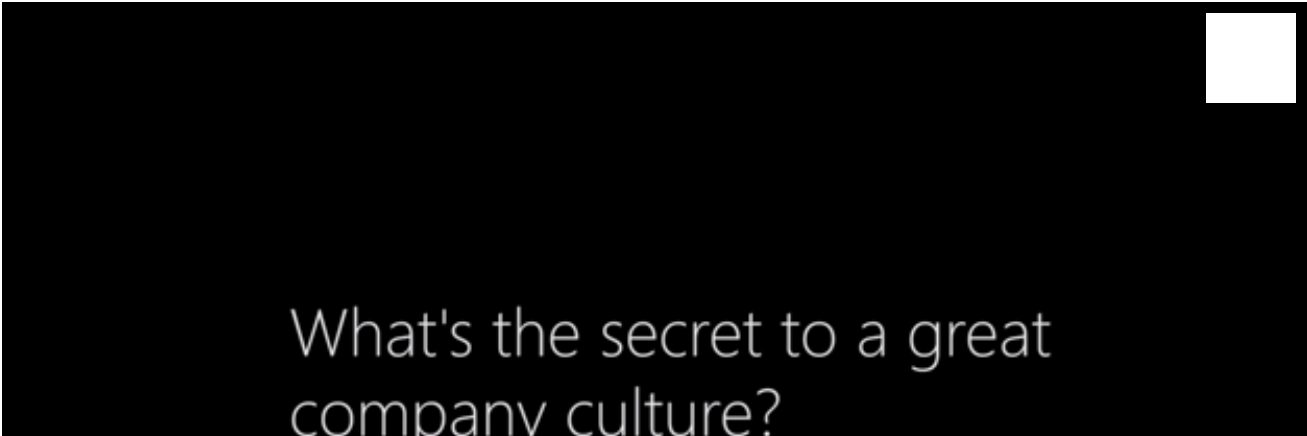
rape or incest are women granted legal abortions, whereas in neighboring Germany, economic or social reasons can also be cited as reasons for an early termination of pregnancy.

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On Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m. local time, the first “Abortion drone” will make its journey from Germany to Poland. The group’s press release notes that packages weigh [less than 5 kilograms \(11 pounds\)](#), that the drones are not being used for any commercial purposes, and will stay within the sight of the person operating the drone. Furthermore, there will be no encroachment upon restricted or controlled airspace, and as such, will not require authorization from either the Polish or German government.

The move ultimately aims to raise awareness around the injustice of the lack of access to the procedure faced by women in Poland. Said Rebecca Gomperts, the director of Women on Waves, [“Women in Poland don’t have access to safe abortions. It’s legally restricted, and this is causing a lot of social injustice for a lot of women.”](#) Gomperts’ group has previously employed the use of boats to deliver contraceptives and perform safe abortions to women traveling in international waters, hence their name.

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“This is really about fundamental women’s rights,” added Gomperts. It is estimated that some 50,000 unauthorized abortions take place in Poland every year, presenting significant health risks to the women as well as a huge financial burden. While the drones will only be carrying enough supplies for two to three women (who will rendezvous at an undisclosed location), the stunt will, at the very least, draw attention to the issue both nationally and internationally.

Said Gomperts: “We want to create awareness about women’s right to a safe abortion. The drone is another way to use the different laws in different countries in order to draw attention to the social injustice that women who are living in places where abortion is illegal are subject to.”

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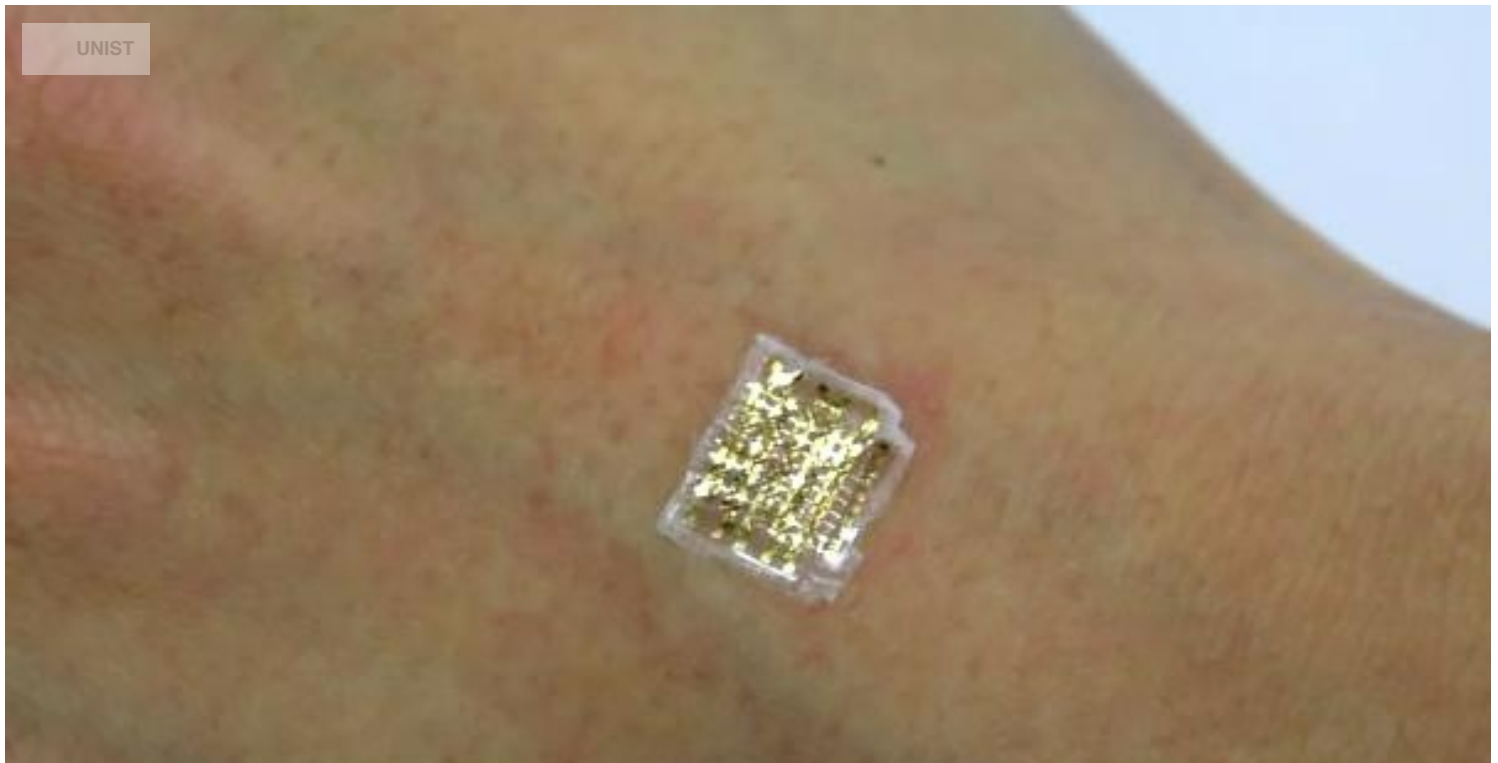
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SCIENTISTS BUILT A 3D PRINTER THAT CAN PRINT OBJECTS SMALLER THAN RED BLOOD CELLS

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Wearable electronic circuit



When it comes to tech, it seems as though the most impressive sizes are always on opposite ends of the spectrum. On the one hand, 3D-printed luxury homes are making waves as a revolutionary new development, but on the other hand, a team from South Korea is garnering significant attention for their equally impressive (though much *physically* smaller) accomplishment. Researchers from Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology have developed a new high-resolution 3D printer that layers special inks to form tiny 3D forms, some as small as just 0.001 millimeters. To put this in perspective, bear in mind that a single human red blood cell ranges in size between 0.006 and 0.008 millimeters, meaning these new printers are printing truly microscopic objects.

This printer actually operates similarly to the ones the average inkjet printer the American consumer is accustomed to, but instead of your day-to-day cartridges, the electrohydrodynamic inkjet employs very specific inks that stack upon one another to form tiny 3D objects, including arched bridges, zig-zags, and even pillars.

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Whereas the current 3D printers on the market have trouble creating smooth objects, and instead have more obvious, rougher textures that reveal how they were made, these new printers may eliminate this shortcoming by operating at high rates of precision. These printers could also be used to help manufacture objects where small size is key, like computer chips, circuit boards, and other items that have only gotten smaller as technology has become more advanced.

Park Jang-ung, the material science and engineering professor leading the initiative, believes that this new technology “will provide a new paradigm in the research field of 3D printing.”

“The existing ultrafine pattern production methods in semiconductor manufacturing procedure had difficulties in reproducing 3D patterns,” Park says. “But this new technology can realize those in high resolution. We believe the technology has set a new paradigm for research using 3D printing and wearable electronic devices.”

Bigger isn’t always better, and this latest form of 3D printing really drives that point home.

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