



# MOAS

MIGRANT OFFSHORE AID STATION

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# Letter from the director



Since the year 2000 at least 22,400 people have died trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea, according to data collected by the International Organisation of Migration. In 2014 three-quarters of all migrant deaths worldwide occurred in the Mediterranean, making it the deadliest border crossing in the world.

This sad toll has continued despite Italy's Mare Nostrum maritime rescue program, which was created in the wake of two tragedies in October 2013 that saw nearly 400 men, women, and children drown in the waters off the Italian island of Lampedusa in the central Mediterranean. Mare Nostrum was deployed in search and rescue (SAR) with a monthly budget of €9 million. Its operations extended from October 2013 to October 2014. During that time, it saved 83,000 individuals at sea.

In 2014 the numbers of migrants spiked, with Italian authorities reporting more than 112,000 arrivals by sea in the first eight months of the year—almost three times as many as in the entire year of 2013. Many migrants were fleeing conflict, persecution, and poverty, with Eritreans and Syrians constituting the largest number of arrivals. The deteriorating security situation in Libya, where many migrants, particularly those from sub-Saharan Africa, resided prior to their departure for Europe, also increased migration pressures.

International nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the European Union's border-security agency Frontex, and the Italian government all agree that the number of refugees and migrants departing from North Africa for Europe is likely to continue rising. Even though the European Union tripled the budget of Frontex's Operation Triton border-security initiative and explicitly extended the SAR mandate beyond the 30-mile frontier zone, the fact remains that even with Mare Nostrum patrols, more than 3,000 men, women and children lost their lives in 2014 while trying to cross the Mediterranean.

**It was against this backdrop that Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) was conceived, designed, and implemented.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Xuereb'.

Martin Xuereb  
Director



## MOAS Governance

The Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation (VO/0939) was established by Christopher Catrambone on 24 January 2014. On 15 April 2014 MOAS subsequently was enrolled as a voluntary organisation governed by the Voluntary Organisations Act, Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta.

**The aim of MOAS, as recorded in its statute, is to 'mitigate the loss of life at sea'.**

The day-to-day affairs of MOAS are entrusted to ReSyH Ltd, the foundation's administrator. The role of the administrator is, inter alia, to meet the objectives and purposes of the foundation in accordance with its statute and applicable law. The administrator serves on a voluntary basis and is not entitled to remuneration except for a reasonable honorarium that does not prejudice the fulfilment of the purposes of MOAS.

The administrator is assisted in the performance of its duties by a Board of Advisers, which is comprised of individuals who are appointed for a three-year period. The Advisory Board meets quarterly. Its members serve on a voluntary basis.



## Financials

Throughout the course of the 2014 Financial Reporting Period, MOAS relied on funds from its founder and the Tangiers Group in order to operate.

Private donations for this period totalled €56,659. Tangiers International Ltd, a member of the Tangiers Group, paid €1,554,875 in operational expenses; ReSyH Ltd paid €174,022 in administrative expenses. Out of the total administrative expenses, ReSyH Ltd billed MOAS €50,000 in honorarium fees.

The annual report and financial statements of MOAS were audited by Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The Annual Report and the Independent Auditor's Report are attached to the Administrator's report as appendices.



*'The concept of  
saving lives is simple,  
but the execution of SAR  
operations is challenging'*



## MOAS Operations 2014

On 25 August 2014, Motor Yacht *Phoenix*, a 40-metre search-and-rescue (SAR) vessel operated by the nonprofit Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS), sailed from Malta's Grand Harbour for the first time. After 60 days at sea, *Phoenix* returned to port having contributed to the safety of 3,104 migrants. That initial voyage vindicated the MOAS concept of saving lives and earned the organisation a reputation as a reliable, professional SAR operation. The Italian Coast Guard presented MOAS with a letter of commendation and appreciation—official recognition of the organisation's humanitarian service in the central Mediterranean.

The concept of saving lives is simple, but the execution of SAR operations is challenging. Operations at sea are physically and mentally demanding, and the MOAS teams work in an atmosphere that is emotionally charged with human drama—fear, shock, relief, and gratitude.

In 2014 MOAS operations in the central Mediterranean focused on the area north of Libyan territorial waters and west of Tripoli. In order to execute its mission, MOAS equipped *Phoenix* with two state-of-the-art Schiebel Camcopter S-100 drones, which extend the



ship's visual range to 60 nautical miles; two rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIBs); a highly trained medical team; and a professional SAR team. The complete package resulted in an enhanced SAR vessel of unmatched capability that was at the disposal of the Italian Coast Guard's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, standing by to assist vessels in distress and rescue their passengers.

Typically, *Phoenix* patrolled within an established area of operations in order to generate situational awareness and detect vessels in distress. In order to enhance detection and geographical coverage, the drones flew multiple sorties. When these sophisticated unmanned aerial systems detected vessels in distress, the *Phoenix* crew forwarded its assessment and the vessel's coordinates to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Rome for guidance and direction. Concurrently, the SAR teams on *Phoenix* were scrambled and maintained at readiness.

If intervention was the approved course of action, *Phoenix* dispatched its RHIBs to the vessel in distress. On approach, the crew reassured the passengers while making an initial medical assessment and providing water, rations, and emergency equipment such as life jackets. The crew then loaded passengers on to the RHIBs for transport to *Phoenix*. Once the migrants were on board the expedition vessel, the crew provided post-rescue care to make the passengers' stay as comfortable as possible. This included medical care, warm clothing, blankets, water, and food. *Phoenix* then typically transferred the passengers to an Italian Coast Guard vessel or transported them to port in Sicily after completing disembarkation formalities.

During MOAS's first 60 days of operations at sea, *Phoenix* was involved in nine rescues, which resulted in 3,104 lives saved. During this operational window MOAS forged an effective working relationship with the Italian Coast Guard and the Italian Navy. The partnership enabled assets at a technical level and MOAS at an operational level to work together effectively in a concerted effort to mitigate loss of life at sea.

The success of MOAS in its first operational season renewed the enthusiasm of the organisation's founder and team. The goals for 2015 are to remain at sea for six months or more, organize a professional post-rescue assistance team, and make MOAS sustainable through public funding.

*‘Everyone has the right to life.  
That’s why MOAS continues to  
save lives at the world’s most dangerous  
border crossing – the sea.’*





## Vision

The concept for MOAS was developed by Christopher and Regina Catrambone in 2013. During a private holiday in the Mediterranean, they became sensitized to the growing humanitarian crisis. The couple was also inspired by the words of Pope Francis, who urged entrepreneurs and private citizens to take action in the Mediterranean following the tragedy off Lampedusa. The couple was motivated to intervene and contribute to dispelling what Pope Francis termed the 'globalisation of indifference' by finding a way to mitigate loss of life at sea through the deployment of maritime operations.

On 24 January 2014 MOAS became the first privately funded organization in the Mediterranean established with the express purpose of conducting SAR missions that rescues migrants at sea. The NGO is registered in Malta under charitable registration number VO/0939. The Catrambones approached Brig. (Ret'd) Martin Xuereb, the former commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, to join the organisation as director and assembled a group of leading entrepreneurs, humanitarians, SAR specialists, migration experts, and charity administrators to advise and support the MOAS mission.

The Catrambones invested more than \$8 million of their own funds in the 2014 MOAS operation, including the purchase and refitting of the 40-metre vessel, M.Y. *Phoenix*.



# MOAS Objectives

According to the MOAS statute, the foundation's mission is as follows:

- i. Strive to reduce human suffering.
- ii. Locate displaced persons and offer them assistance.
- iii. Assist persons lost at sea or in danger at sea who are in need of care.
- iv. Administer palliative care and medical assistance to those who need it.
- v. Assist vessels that are in danger of sinking.
- vi. Design, execute, and promote research-and-development activities and projects in furtherance of the foundation's objectives.

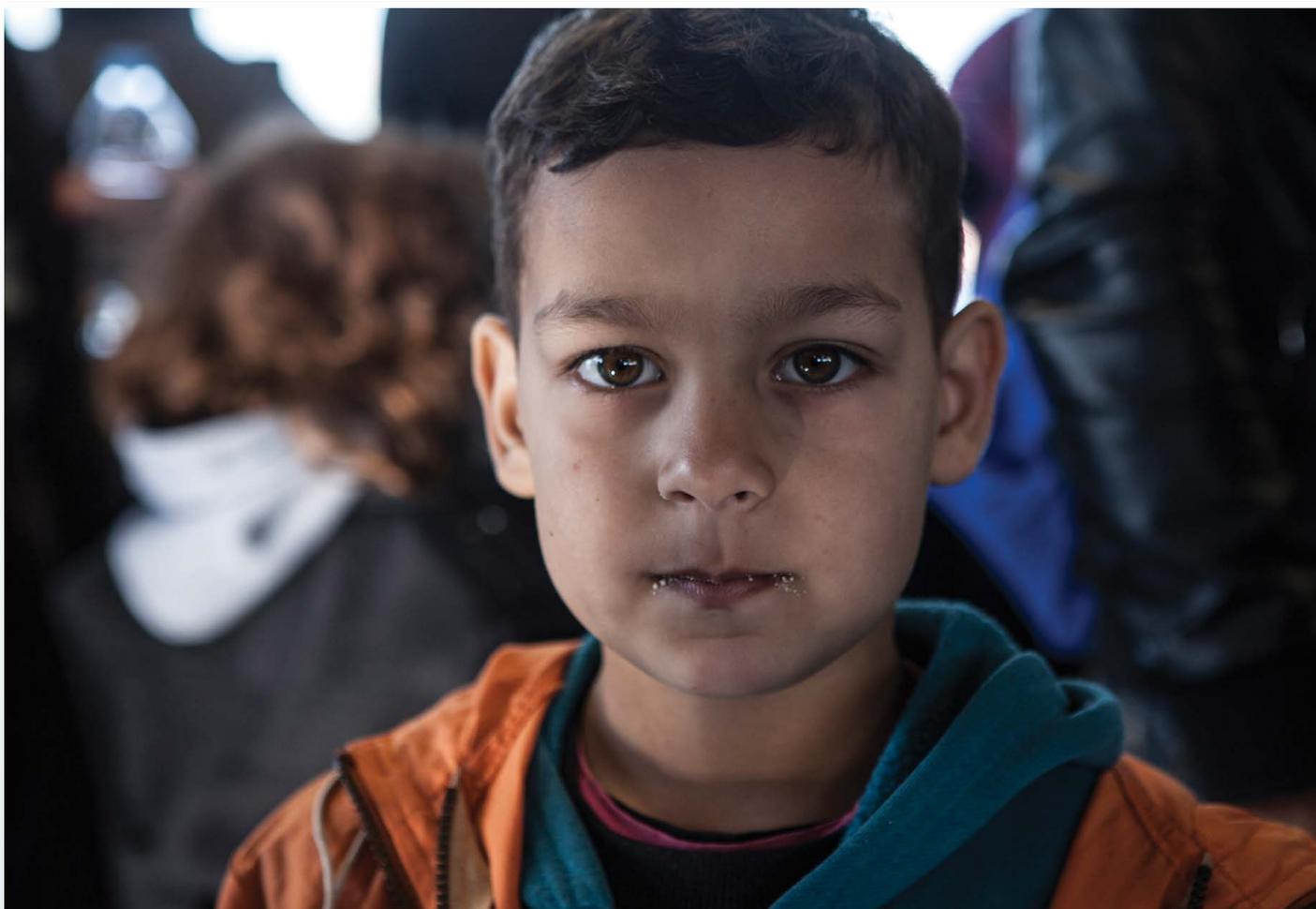
In pursuit of those objectives, MOAS conducted a two-month SAR operation that launched on 25 August 2014. The *Phoenix* was equipped with two rigid hull inflatable boats, two Schiebel Camcopter S-100 drones, a SAR crew, and a post-rescue care team made up of medical personnel. The mission was to survey and patrol the central Mediterranean with both SAR and post-rescue care capabilities aimed at preventing loss of life at sea.

During its 2014 patrol, MOAS aimed not only to meet these objectives of the statute but also deliver proof of concept by establishing a fundraising paradigm for future operations with the goal of making MOAS independent of founder funding for the 2015 season.

Using a lessons-identified lessons-learned approach, MOAS succeeded in rescuing more than 3,000 men, women, and children in its first 60 days of operations. It also established and developed essential relationships with major stakeholders in the Mediterranean region.



*'No one deserves to die  
at sea – and we are  
working hard to ensure  
that no one does'*



## Migration 2014/2015

The movement of people within Europe is not new. Europeans remember the massive outflow of persons from Central and Eastern Europe who were uprooted by World War II. The continent is now witnessing a massive inflow of irregular migration—refugees and those without documentation who are fleeing war, repression, terrorism, and poverty. The flow of these irregular migrants across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe is not new. What is new is the vast scale of the migration and the dramatic increase in deaths along the sea routes.

There are many streams feeding this flood of human migration. Syrians who fled their country's civil war only to end up in the seemingly endless purgatory of refugee camps now seek sanctuary in the European Union. Afghans and Iraqis escaping turmoil swell the ranks of migrants. Conflict in other areas also contributes to this mass movement: Eritreans escaping a military draft and harsh economic and political conditions at home; Somalis and Nigerians evicted from their countries by the Islamic extremist groups al Shabaab and Boko Haram; and Central Africans displaced by conflict in the Central African Republic. The collapse of Libya in 2010 has made that war-torn North African nation the favored

embarkation point for migrants preparing to cross the Mediterranean. Business is booming for Libya-based human smuggling networks that are ever ready to cram desperate men, women, and children on small boats and homemade rafts.

In 2013 an estimated 60,000 people braved the crossing. In 2014 that number shot up to 219,000 people. Authorities expect the number of migrants in 2015 will exceed 500,000. And 2016 may portend even greater numbers since the underlying causes of this exodus—war, poverty, abuse, conditions in refugee camps, and denied asylum petitions—will not dramatically change. The demand for a better life will always be a major driver in motivating people to risk their lives at sea.

In 2014 the International Organization for Migration (IOM), along with other nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), estimated that 3,224 people drowned crossing the central Mediterranean. To put this statistic in perspective, in that same year 307 migrants perished trying to enter the United States by traversing the Mexican desert. The IOC estimates that in 2014 some 265 people died crossing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa to Yemen. In Southeast Asia the organisation's 2014 fatality count reveals that more than 650 migrants, most of them members of the Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority seeking asylum in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia, perished while attempting to cross the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. As these grim figures demonstrate, the central Mediterranean crossing remains the most deadly in the world.

In 2014 Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) became the first NGO to launch a private search-and-rescue vessel, the now-famous M.Y. *Phoenix*, with its two Scheibel Camcopter S-100 drones and its twin fast-response rigid hull inflatable boats. In 2015 European Union navies and coast guards, along with vessels from other NGOs and the commercial sector, joined the MOAS mission to save lives at sea.

The outlook is for an increased flow of migrants and refugees. MOAS, with the help of its donors and team, will be ready. According to the IOM, as of 1 September 2015, 114,276 people had made the crossing in the central Mediterranean from Libya to Europe; more than 2,535 perished. In the eastern Mediterranean in that same period, there were 234,778 crossings from Turkey to Greece, but only 85 migrants drowned on the much shorter passage. The western Mediterranean crossing at the Strait of Gibraltar experienced a minimal number of crossings and 23 deaths.

MOAS continues to be the leader in this urgent humanitarian effort as it expands globally. For now, however, MOAS is concentrating its efforts, skills, and resources on the most dangerous crossing in the world: the central Mediterranean.

MIGRANT OFFSHORE AID STATION FOUNDATION  
(MOAS)

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
31 December 2014

MIGRANT OFFSHORE AID STATION FOUNDATION (MOAS)  
Annual Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2014

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## **The Administrator's report**

The Board of Administrators present their report for the period ending 31 December 2014.

### **Foundation**

Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation (MOAS) was incorporated on 24 January 2014. Accordingly, these financial statements reflect the period from the date of incorporation to 31 December 2014.

### **Aim of the Foundation**

The Foundation is a non-profit making organisation established to mitigate the loss of life out at sea.

### **Review of the activities**

During the period under review the Foundation conducted activities to fulfil its aims.

### **Results**

The surplus for the period is shown in the Income and distributions statement on page 4.

### **Administrator of the Foundation**

The Administrator of the Foundation is:

ReSyH Limited

### **Statement of responsibilities of the Administrator for the financial statements**

The Administrator is required by the Foundation's statute to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Foundation as at the end of each financial period and of the income and distribution for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the Administrator is responsible for:

- ensuring that the financial statements have been drawn up in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein;
- selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies;
- making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances;
- ensuring that the financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Foundation will continue in operation as a going concern.

## The Administrator's report - continued

### Statement of responsibilities of the Administrator for the financial statements - continued

The Administrator is also responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Foundation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

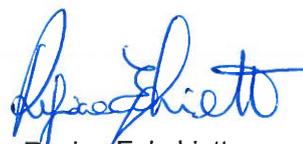
The financial statements of MOAS for the period ended 31 December 2014 may be made available on the Foundation's website. The Administrator is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial statements on the website in view of their responsibility for the controls over, and the security of, the website. Access to information published on the Foundation's website is available in other countries and jurisdictions, where legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from requirements or practice in Malta

### Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers have been appointed as auditors and a resolution for their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.



Martin Xuereb  
Director of ReSyH Limited  
7, St Trophimus Street,  
Sliema  
Administrator



Regina Egle Liotta  
Director of ReSyH Limited

30 September 2015



## Independent auditor's report

To the Members of Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation (MOAS)

### Report on the Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2014

We have audited the financial statements of Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation on pages 4 to 9 which comprise the statement of affairs as at 31 December 2014, the income and distributions statement and the statement of cash flows for the period then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Administrators' responsibility for the financial statements*

As explained more comprehensively in the statement of responsibilities of the Administrator for the financial statements on pages 1 and 2, the Administrator is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the financial statements and in accordance with the Foundation's statute, for such internal control as the Board deems necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Administrator, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2014, and of its surplus and cash flows for the period then ended; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the financial statements and in accordance with the Foundation's statute.

#### **PricewaterhouseCoopers**

78 Mill Street  
Qormi  
Malta

Romina Soler  
Partner

30 September 2015

## Income and distributions statement

	Notes	Period from 24 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 €
<b>Contributions</b>		
Donations received	3	56,659
Bank charges		(1,169)
Realised difference on exchange		55
<b>Net donations received</b>		<hr/> 55,545
Operational expenses	4	(1,554,875)
Paid by Tangiers International Limited		1,554,875
Administrative expenses	4	(174,022)
Paid by ReSyH Limited		174,022
Administrator's Honorarium		(50,000)
<b>Surplus for the period</b>		<hr/> 5,545 <hr/>

The notes on pages 7 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of affairs

	Notes	2014 €
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	5	55,545
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>55,545</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Amount due to administrator	4	50,000
<b>Equity</b>		
General fund		5,545
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<u>55,545</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 4 to 9 were authorised, issued on 30 September 2015 and signed by:



Martin Xuereb  
Director of ReSyH Limited  
7, St Trophimus Street,  
Sliema  
Administrator



Regina Egle Liotta  
Director of ReSyH Limited

## Statement of cash flows

	Notes	Period from 24 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 €
<b>Activities</b>		
Cash generated from activities	7	55,545
<b>Movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<u>55,545</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period</b>		<u>-</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	5	<u>55,545</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in terms of the accounting policies set out below.

The preparation of these financial statements also requires the use of certain accounting estimates. It also requires the Administrator to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Foundation's accounting policies (see Note 2 – Critical accounting estimates and judgements).

#### *Incorporation*

The Foundation was incorporated on 24 January 2014. Accordingly these financial statements cover the accounting period from the date of incorporation to 31 December 2014.

#### 1.2 Income

Contributions and donations are recognised in the accounting period in which they are received.

#### 1.3 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise deposits held at call with banks and other intermediaries.

#### 1.4 Payables

Payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

In the opinion of the Administrator, the accounting estimates and judgements made in the course of preparing these financial statements are not difficult, subjective or complex to a degree which would warrant their description as critical.

**3. Income**

The main income of Migrant Offshore Aid Station is derived from donations received.

**4. Expenses by nature**

	Period from 24 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 €
Legal and professional fees	136,330
Crew and recruitment fees	209,649
Rental of air vehicle equipment	663,043
Honorarium fee	50,000
Other expenses	<u>719,875</u>
Total administrative and operating expenses	1,778,897
Paid by Tangiers International Limited	(1,554,875)
Paid by ReSyH Limited	<u>(174,022)</u>
 Total administrative and operating expenses	 <u>50,000</u>

Auditor's fees

Auditor's remuneration for the audit of the financial period ending 2014 amounted to €500.

**5. Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, the period end cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2014 €
Cash at bank and other intermediaries	<u>55,545</u>

**6. Payables**

	2014 €
Amount due to administrator	<u>50,000</u>

**7. Cash generated from activities**

Reconciliation of net income for the period to cash generated from activities:

	Period from 24 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 €
Surplus for the year	5,545
Changes in working capital Trade and other payables	<u>50,000</u>
Cash generated from activities	<u>55,545</u>

## Detailed accounts

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## Income statement

	Period from 24 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 €
Contributions	
Donations received	56,659
Bank charges	(1,169)
Realised difference on exchange	55
Net donations	<hr/> 55,545 <hr/>

MIGRANT OFFSHORE AID STATION FOUNDATION (MOAS)  
Detailed Accounts - 31 December 2014

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**Expenses**

	Period from 24 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 €
Operational expenses	
Rental of air vehicle equipment	663,043
Crew fees	174,715
Sub contractors	33,222
Ship consumables	32,769
Professional fees	46,853
Representation costs	82,586
Registration fees	14,971
Legal fees	64,569
Recruitment fees	1,712
Repairs and maintenance	56,360
Telecommunication expenses	49,853
Insurance	76,993
Cleaning	1,772
Postage, delivery and freight	3,264
Sundry	2,041
Travel – flights	85,061
Travel – accommodation	17,782
Sustenance	40,053
Port fees	21,491
Fuel	85,765
	1,554,875
Total	1,554,875
Paid by Tangiers International Limited	(1,554,875)
Administrative expenses	
Professional fees	24,908
Marketing and PR	42,795
Administrative expenses including payroll	106,319
	174,022
Total	174,022
Paid by ReSyH Limited	(174,022)
Honorarium fee	50,000
	50,000
Total expenses	50,000