

Die Story: Boeing - The Deadly System

Boeing - das tödliche System

In 2019 a Boeing 737 MAX crashed shortly after take-off in Ethiopia. 157 people died. The latest model of the world's best-selling commercial aircraft has not been allowed to fly since. Only four months earlier, an identical aircraft had crashed in Indonesia, killing 189 people. A defect in a software whose existence had been kept secret from the pilots is considered to be the cause of both crashes.

The film shows: The cause of the crashes was only superficially a software failure. On closer inspection it was a system failure. Design and certification of an aircraft are driven by commercial interests, price pressure and the pursuit of profitability. Thousands of engineers and commercial staff of the manufacturer, together with certification authorities, ensure that maximum safety is achieved on the one hand and maximum economic success on the other. It seems that lately the focus was primarily on economic success.

Former Boeing employees and pilots describe their experiences. It becomes clear why the decommissioning (the grounding) of the 737 Max is so much longer than originally thought, how much the engineers' work was corrupted by economic constraints. But above all - that this problem is not limited to a single aircraft type. Other models of the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, will most likely prove to be a problem in the future, according to statements by those involved in the construction. The fight for the re-certification of the Boeing 737 MAX is at least as explosive as the initial registration of the aircraft. For Boeing it is existential.

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