Dutch start-up Nestpod delivers lactation pod to Ramstein Air Base in Germany

Within one year: from personal frustration to first delivery abroad

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Nestpod, the Dutch company behind plug-and-play pods for pumping and breastfeeding, has delivered its first pod outside the Netherlands. Since September, an olive-green Nestpod has been in place at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Mothers on the base can now pump or feed there in peace and privacy.

The idea came from personal experience. Founder Naomi Griekspoor found that pumping at her workplace was poorly arranged. At a major airport, the toilet turned out to be the only place to feed her baby. She is not alone: only one in three mothers has a proper pumping room at work. Together with Birgitta de Gruijter, she founded Nestpod. The pods are installed without any building work and are ready to use straight away.

The first real-world test was the Negenmaandenbeurs, a major Dutch pregnancy and baby fair, in February this year, with 35,000 visitors. The demo pod was in use almost continuously. All users said they saw the Nestpod as a fully-fledged lactation room. After a second test at sports club Kampong in Utrecht, Nestpod was ready to go to market. Seven months after launch, Nestpod is now in Germany.

Griekspoor: "I was convinced of our concept from the start. But I never dreamed we would deliver our first pod abroad within our first year."

De Gruijter: "Every location has its own requirements. For this placement we delivered a new colour, a custom lock and a different way of connecting the pod, all without building work. That flexibility is why our pods fit almost anywhere: offices, factories and airports."