

Heli-Expo 2014

NHV orders six additional EC175s from Airbus Helicopters

Anaheim, California, 25 February 2014 – Noordzee Helicopters Vlaanderen (NHV) has ordered six more Airbus Helicopters EC175s, increasing its acquisitions of the new-generation rotorcraft to 16. NHV is an EC175 launch customer, booking its first contract for 10 of the mid-sized, twin-engine helicopters in 2012.

“We – NHV and our customers – having experienced the EC175’s performance first-hand, have full confidence in the helicopter’s capability to meet NHV’s operational needs and in Airbus Helicopters’ ability to deliver on its program commitments,” said NHV CEO Eric Van Hal. “This second EC175 acquisition also continues our strategy of owning and operating a young fleet with the most modern systems, which enhances NHV’s mission capabilities and contributes to safe operations. Following the EC175’s recent certification, we look forward to the start-up of deliveries with this latest member of Airbus Helicopters’ product line in the heavier mid-sized rotorcraft category.”

Based in Ostend, Belgium, NHV is specialized in business-to-business aviation services. Its helicopters are deployed to nine different countries on three continents. NHV’s missions range from services for the oil and gas industry to heli-lift duties for harbor pilots, wind farm operators, governments and hospitals.

Deliveries of NHV’s first EC175 is planned later this year.

“There is no better endorsement than a reorder – especially from an operator with such demanding mission requirements and high standards as NHV,” said Airbus Helicopters CEO Guillaume Faury. “NHV can count on the full resources of Airbus Helicopters for its EC175 service introduction.”

Airbus Helicopters has committed significant resources to ensure optimized aircraft maturity and a successful entry in service for the EC175, supported by a dedicated task force and tools that include validated support and services deliverables, along with the establishment of training capabilities. As part of this strategy, the company is locating the first EC175 Level D full-flight simulator in France.

The EC175 has been certified to the latest airworthiness standards, covering both the helicopter and its new Helionix® avionics suite – which provides increased safety through reduced pilot workload, enhanced situational awareness, improved flight envelope protection and system redundancy.

Powered by Pratt & Whitney Canada's latest PT6 engine, developed specifically for this helicopter—the PT6C67E version – the EC175 has become the industry's benchmark medium-sized twin-engine rotorcraft across a full range of missions, including transport duties in oil and gas operations, corporate and executive transport, search and rescue, emergency medical services and public services.

Contributing to the EC175's competitive edge is its speed and comfort. At a cruise speed of 165 kts., the helicopter operates with extremely low vibration levels.

About Airbus Helicopters (www.airbushelicopters.com)

Airbus Helicopters, formerly Eurocopter, is a division of Airbus Group, a global pioneer in aerospace and defense related services. Airbus Helicopters is the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer and employs more than 23,000 people worldwide. With 46 percent market share in civil and parapublic sectors, the company's fleet in service includes some 12,000 helicopters operated by more than 3,000 customers in approximately 150 countries. Airbus Helicopters' international presence is marked by its subsidiaries and participations in 21 countries, and its worldwide network of service centers, training facilities, distributors and certified agents. Airbus Helicopters' range of civil and military helicopters is the world's largest; its aircraft account for one third of the worldwide civil and parapublic fleet. The company's chief priority is to ensure the safe operation of its aircraft for the thousands of people who fly more than 3 million hours per year.

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