

Eurocopter brings its mission-ready military and civil helicopters To the Aero India 2013 exhibition

Bangalore, India, February 5, 2013

The capabilities of Eurocopter's expanded helicopter product line in meeting a full range of India military, governmental and civilian missions will be at the forefront during this month's Aero India 2013 exhibition, to be held at Air Force Station Yelahanka, near Bangalore.

A cornerstone of Eurocopter's static display is the AS565 MBe Panther naval helicopter, equipped with its full armament complement. This proven rotorcraft is proposed for both the Indian Navy's planned acquisition of utility helicopters and the Indian Coast Guard's anticipated purchase of ship-based light/medium helicopters. The AS565 MB Panther is a militarized member of Eurocopter's popular Dauphin family, and has demonstrated its abilities in India – as one of this helicopter type's largest civilian operators is the country's Pawan Hans Helicopters, with a significant AS365 N3 Dauphin fleet.

“Eurocopter has made major investments in building up its product portfolio, which positions us to offer products that meet India's mission requirements in bolstering its defense capabilities,” said Eurocopter President & CEO Lutz Bertling. “At the last Aero India event, we showcased the AS550 C3 Fennec, which was presented as the ideal replacement for India's aging Cheetah and Chetak fleet. This time, we are bringing the combat-proven AS565 MBe Panther with a complete set of armament, which is in service in many military forces around the world.”

The AS565 MBe is a combat and utility helicopter suitable for both ship-borne and shore-based operations, and also serves as a highly capable search and rescue system for both day and night operations. Accompanying the helicopter's display at Aero India will be a comprehensive armament suite for use in sea and ground warfare – including an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) torpedo, ASW depth charge, gun and rocket pods, and a 0.5-in. sniper rifle.

For naval missions, the Panther comes with a fully-certified 4-axis digital Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS) incorporating search and rescue modes, which enables search patterns to be flown automatically, along with automatic transitions to/from hover and automatic hover, as well as the ability to adjust the helicopter's position from the hoist operator's joystick.

Available for customer flights at Aero India 2013 will be an AS350 B3e from Davangere Sugar – the enhanced version of the single-engine AS350 B3, with exceptional lifting capability, extended range, fast cruise speed and great endurance in hot climates and high altitudes .

Featured as scale models on the Aero India 2013 exhibit stand of Eurocopter parent company EADS are the AS550 C3 Fennec, offered to fulfill India's needs for a modern reconnaissance and surveillance helicopter (RSH); the new EC175, which demonstrated its unrivalled performance for off-shore oil and gas missions with the no. 1 production helicopter's first flight; and the performance-enhanced new EC130T2, which shares the technological baseline with the AS350B3e. While the AS350 B3 is one of the most popular light helicopter products in India for utility and aerial work, the EC130 T2 will be ideal for passenger transport and tourism activities.



Eurocopter considers India as a key market, and has a long-established presence in the country. Its relationship with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) during more than five decades has seen hundreds of Eurocopter helicopters built in India under license, along with the production of composite assemblies for AS550/AS350 helicopters as part of Eurocopter's global supply chain. In 2010, the company became the first helicopter manufacturer to establish a full-fledged subsidiary with the creation of Eurocopter India.

About Eurocopter India Pvt Limited

On October 20, 2010, Eurocopter inaugurated its new Indian subsidiary, which has been given the goals of expanding the world's largest helicopter manufacturer's commercial presence in this highly-promising marketplace, reinforcing its support and services network throughout the country, and further developing the company's five-decade relationship with the Indian industry. Eurocopter India is the 25th subsidiary established worldwide by Eurocopter and the 10th in Asia. It is the first and only foreign helicopter manufacturer to have created a full-fledged subsidiary in India. The subsidiary is headquartered in New Delhi and has an existing facility in Bangalore for the management of industrial activity. A new commercial office was opened in Mumbai in 2012.

About Eurocopter

Established in 1992, the Franco-German-Spanish Eurocopter Group is a division of EADS, a world leader in aerospace and defense-related services. The Eurocopter Group employs approximately 22,000 people. In 2012, Eurocopter confirmed its position as the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer with a turnover of 6.3 billion Euros, orders for 469 new helicopters and a 44 percent market share in the civil and parapublic sectors. Overall, the Group's helicopters account for 33 percent of the worldwide civil and parapublic fleet. Eurocopter's strong international presence is ensured by its subsidiaries and participations in 21 countries. Eurocopter's worldwide network of service centers, training facilities, distributors and certified agents supports more than 2,900 customers. There are currently more than 11,780 Eurocopter helicopters in service in 148 countries. Eurocopter offers the most comprehensive civil and military helicopter range in the world and is fully committed to safety as the most important aspect of its business.

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