

Eurocopter completes delivery of 23 EC135 helicopters for Poland's LPR public air medical rescue operator

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Poland's public air medical rescue operator LPR (Lotnicze Pogotowie Ratunkowe) has received its final two EC135 helicopters from the 23 acquired by the Polish Ministry of Health, which are being used to modernize the country's nationwide emergency medical services (EMS) network.

This on-time delivery for the concluding two EC135s followed their technical acceptance at Eurocopter's Donauwörth site in Germany earlier this month, which occurred in the presence of Poland's Deputy Health Minister, Marek Haber.

The fleet of 23 EC135 helicopters is now fully operational with LPR, representing a major step in the modernization of the country's helicopter-based medical evacuation services, and making Poland one of the world's largest users of the helicopter in its new-generation EMS configuration.

These helicopters are operated by LPR from 17 bases across the country. By using the EC135s to gradually replace an inventory of aging Mi-2s, the Polish aerial medical evacuation system now complies fully with European regulations.

"The 23 EC135s operated by LPR meet the extremely high international safety standards for emergency medical services," stated LPR director Robert Gałazkowski. "Thanks to their versatility and the ability to fly in the harsh operating conditions and during the night, the EC135s' proven efficiency and performance make them the perfect helicopter for medical rescue missions."

Olivier Michalon, Eurocopter's Vice President of Sales for Europe and Central Asia, said deliveries of LPR's entire EC135 fleet were performed on time, within budget and to specifications – a result of the dedication by Eurocopter's teams, and the excellent cooperation with its customer.

"Eurocopter is committed to providing Poland's emergency services with modern and reliable EMS helicopters, and to ensuring that they can be maintained in-country in strict accordance with the operator's own timetable, which is being achieved," Michalon added. "LPR now serves as a model for other eastern European countries who want to create a modern, capable national EMS service. We are pleased to have been able to meet the customer's expectations, and are convinced this initial contract is only the beginning of a long partnership with Poland."

Technical support for LPR's EC135s is provided by Heli Invest, a Eurocopter distributor and certified maintenance center based in Warsaw. Heli Invest offers a full range of customer services, including a Polish-language hotline that operates 24/7, full maintenance services, and technical support at all bases throughout the country.



The lightweight twin-engine EC135 has become the helicopter of choice in the world of emergency medical services. More than 800 of these rotary-wing aircraft – including 400 in the EMS configuration – have been delivered to 160 customers in 40 countries since it was launched in mid-1996. The EC135 holds a 63 percent share in the market for this category of aircraft.

About Eurocopter

Established in 1992, the Franco-German-Spanish Eurocopter Group is a Division of EADS, a world leader in aerospace, defence and related services. The Eurocopter Group employs approx. 15,600 people. In 2009, Eurocopter confirmed its position as the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer in the civil and parapublic market, with a turnover of 4.6 billion Euros, orders for 344 new helicopters, and a 52 percent market share in the civil and parapublic sectors. Overall, the Group's products account for 30 percent of the total world helicopter fleet. Its strong worldwide presence is ensured by its 25 subsidiaries and participations on five continents, along with a dense network of distributors, certified agents and maintenance centers. More than 10,500 Eurocopter helicopters are currently in service with over 2,800 customers in more than 140 countries. Eurocopter offers the largest civil and military helicopter range in the world.

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