

Eurocopter kicks off the ILA Berlin Air Show with a focus on its helicopter product line innovation

Donauwörth, Germany, September 10, 2012

Eurocopter will present its latest civil and military helicopters at the 2012 ILA Berlin Air Show, including the X³ high-speed hybrid demonstrator, the newly-developed EC145 T2, and the enhanced CH-53GA for the German Army – all of which underscore the company’s technological leadership and the capability to meet quality and performance demands of international customers.

Eurocopter’s innovative X³ technology demonstrator will be in the spotlight from the air show’s opening, and is to participate in the daily flight demonstrations. This is the first time the hybrid aircraft – which combines the full hover flight capabilities of a helicopter with the cruise speeds of a turboprop-powered aircraft – will be on show in Germany. Its innovative design, featuring both a main rotor and tractor propellers, was developed by Eurocopter in an effort to make long-distance, high-speed helicopter flight viable in both commercial and military applications.

“Our X³ and the other helicopters we are presenting at Berlin are proof of Eurocopter’s innovative leadership in the rotorcraft market,” said Lutz Bertling, President and CEO of Eurocopter. “Our ongoing investments in breakthrough technologies respond to the needs of our customers, who want helicopters that offer ever higher levels of performance and safety while minimizing their impact on the environment. By driving continual growth in research and development, we also are making a major contribution to the future of the aviation industry, and of Germany as a center for high-tech industry.”

Versatility on display: EC145 T2 and EC135

Eurocopter is presenting its EC145 T2 in the static display in the ILA Berlin Air Show’s HeliCenter. This enhanced EC145 – the latest version of Eurocopter’s light twin-engine multi-mission helicopter developed and produced at the company’s Donauwörth, Germany center of excellence – boasts improvements in both performance and safety. Its military version is ideally placed to meet the growing demand for a light twin-engine multi-role helicopter suitable both for transport missions and special operations.

Also at the air show, Eurocopter is using the EC135 to demonstrate the versatility of its product line. This helicopter will be present in an emergency medical services configuration for LPR (Poland’s public air medical rescue operator), and as a police helicopter for France’s Gendarmerie, and in its EC635 military version.

In addition, Eurocopter is presenting one of the latest additions to its Ecureuil family: the AS350 B3e.

State-of-the-art technology for the armed forces: Tiger, NH90 NFH and CH-53GA

The Tiger support helicopter and the NH90 naval helicopter that will be exhibited at the ILA Berlin Air Show represent the latest generation of military helicopters currently in service with armed forces around the world.



The 93 Tigers delivered to date by Eurocopter already have accumulated a combined total of more than 38,350 flight hours – with 4,000 of these hours logged during French Army operations in Afghanistan and Libya. To date, the German Bundeswehr has received 27 Tigers.

The Tactical Transport Helicopter (TTH) and its NATO Frigate Helicopter (NFH) versions of the NH90 also have proven their worth in active service, including a highly challenging nighttime rescue mission in stormy seas off the coast of Brittany, conducted by a French Navy NH90 NFH.

In cooperation with the German Air Force, Eurocopter has currently completed the on-time outfitting of eight NH90 TTHs with special equipment for medical evacuation operations in Afghanistan.

Also to be shown on static display at the Berlin Air Show, is the CH-53GA – a result of an important modernization effort involving the close cooperation of Eurocopter and the German Army. Eurocopter is upgrading the Bundeswehr's CH-53 heavy-lift transport helicopters as part of a comprehensive product improvement program, which extends their service life beyond 2030. Eurocopter will mark the first production upgraded helicopter's handover at the ILA Berlin Air Show.

Another air show highlight will be a representative full-scale fuselage cross-section segment of the Future Transport Helicopter (FTH), which is to be exhibited at the show's HeliCenter – giving an idea of this rotorcraft's size and payload capability.

The Berlin Air Show focus also will be on the broad range of support and services that Eurocopter offers its customers, wherever they are located. For instance, visitors at the event will have the opportunity to see the CH-53 Cockpit Procedure Trainer – a key element in pilot training for this rotorcraft. New maintenance, spare parts and logistics support will be highlighted as well, demonstrating Eurocopter's commitment to offering customers comprehensive services that ensure the availability and safety of their helicopters.

Visit Eurocopter at the ILA Berlin Air Show both in the HeliCenter (Hall 3, Booth 3636) and in the EADS Pavilion. For current news and pictures from the air show, go to:
<http://press.eurocopter.com>

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 20,000 people. In 2011, Eurocopter confirmed its position as the world's number one helicopter manufacturer with a turnover of 5.4 billion Euros, orders for 457 new helicopters and a 43 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 some 2,900 customers. There are currently more than 11,300 Eurocopter helicopters in service in 149 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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