Airbus delivers first of up to 82 H145M helicopters to the German Armed Forces

Less than a year after the contract was signed, Airbus Helicopters has delivered the first of up to 82 H145Ms ordered by Germany at its Donauwörth site. The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) have named their new H145Ms “Leichter Kampfhubschrauber” (light combat helicopter), or LKH for short. The helicopter's missions include training, reconnaissance, special forces operations and light attack.

“We remain a reliable partner of the German Bundeswehr. Delivering the first H145M LKH in less than a year after the contract signature demonstrates our commitment. The H145M LKH will be a true multi-mission asset for the German Armed Forces, supporting their crucial missions,” said Stefan Thomé, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters in Germany.

This first helicopter is dedicated to training operations and will be used at the German Army's Bückeburg base. The first delivery of an H145M LKH in the light attack role to the German customer is scheduled for 2025, as contracted. The training of the Bundeswehr’s pilots started already in August this year.

In December 2023, the Bundeswehr and Airbus Helicopters signed a contract for the purchase of up to 82 multi-role H145M helicopters (62 firm orders plus 20 options), the largest order ever placed for the H145M and consequently the largest for the HForce weapon management system. The contract also includes seven years of support and services, ensuring optimal entry into service and support. The German Army will receive 57 helicopters, while the Luftwaffe's special forces will receive five.

The H145M is a multi-role military helicopter that provides a broad range of mission capabilities. Within minutes, the helicopter can be reconfigured from a light attack role with axial ballistic and guided weapons and a state-of-the-art self-protection system into a special operations version with fast rappelling equipment. The comprehensive mission packages include hoisting and external cargo capabilities.

The standard version of the ordered H145Ms is equipped with fixed provisions, including HForce, the weapon management system developed by Airbus Helicopters. This allows the Bundeswehr to train its pilots on the same type of helicopter that is used for operation and combat. Costly type transfers are eliminated and the highest level of professionalism will be achieved.

The H145M is the military version of the tried-and-tested, light twin-engine H145 helicopter. The global fleet of the H145 family has accumulated close to eight million flight hours. It is used by armed and law enforcement forces around the world for the most demanding missions. The Bundeswehr already operates 24 H145 helicopters for special forces operations and search and rescue missions. The US Army employs almost 500 helicopters from the H145 family under the name of UH-72 Lakota which have clocked more than 1.5 million flight hours. Military operators of the H145 family are Hungary, Serbia, Luxembourg, Thailand, Ecuador and Honduras. Recent orders include Cyprus, signing for six aircraft, Belgium for 17 and Brunei for six.

Powered by two Safran Arriel 2E engines, the H145M is fitted with a full authority digital engine control (FADEC). In addition, the helicopter is equipped with the Helionix digital avionics suite which, alongside innovative flight data management, includes a high-performance 4-axis autopilot, reducing pilot workload during missions. Its particularly low acoustic footprint makes the H145M the quietest helicopter in its class.

Quelle:
Airbus Press Release 18 November 2024

Boeing Awarded 15 Additional U.S. Air Force KC-46A Tankers

- With the Lot 11 contract award, 168 KC-46A multi-mission aerial refuelers are now on contract globally
- KC-46A began first full-scale operational deployment with U.S. Air Force in October

Boeing [NYSE: BA] will build 15 additional KC-46A Pegasus tankers under a Lot 11 contract award from the U.S. Air Force valued at $2.38 billion. In all, Boeing has 168 KC-46A multi-mission aerial refuelers on contract globally, providing advanced capability advantages for the joint force and allies.

“We appreciate our continued partnership with the U.S. Air Force,” said Lynn Fox, vice president and KC-46 program manager. “This is another big milestone for our team, and we look forward to delivering the world’s most advanced multi-mission aerial refuelers for years to come.”

The KC-46A continues to demonstrate its unparalleled capabilities having flown more than 100,000 flight hours and offloaded more than 200 million pounds of fuel to receivers globally. In October, the Pegasus made its inaugural full-scale operational deployment after the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command approved the KC-46A for global combat operations in 2022.

In July, the Air Force awarded Boeing a contract to upgrade the mission readiness and performance of the KC-46A tanker. This builds on the 2023 Block 1 upgrade, further enhancing the tanker’s advanced communications, data connectivity and situational awareness for aircraft survivability and operational advantage in contested environments.

Since 2019, Boeing has delivered 89 KC-46As to the U.S. Air Force and four to the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.

Quelle:
Boeing Press Release 21 November 2024

Skunk Works® Demonstrates Airborne Battle Management of AI-Controlled Aircraft

Lockheed Martin Skunk Works® (NYSE: LMT), in partnership with Lockheed Martin's Demonstrations and Prototypes organization and the University of Iowa's Operator Performance Laboratory (OPL), showcased a crewed-uncrewed teaming mission where an airborne battle manager issued real-time commands to AI-controlled aircraft through a touchscreen pilot vehicle interface (PVI).

In a series of flight tests, the Skunk Works and OPL teams simulated an offensive counter air mission where an airborne, human "battle manager" aboard an L-39 Albatros assigned targets to two AI-controlled L-29 Delfin jets, which then worked together to defeat two mock enemy jets using simulated mission systems and weapons.

"The work we're doing with the University of Iowa's OPL is foundational for the future of air combat, where a family of crewed and uncrewed systems will work together to execute

complex missions," said John Clark, vice president and general manager, Lockheed Martin Skunk Works. "We're excited to leverage our diverse skillsets to advance all elements of this new way of operating."

These flight tests build on previous experiments that demonstrated AI-controlled air-to-ground jamming and geolocation. This year, the tests shifted to AI in air-to-air combat, where AI sends commands directly to the planes' autopilots. This is the third test of this type and the first to include a real-time human battle manager overseeing the AI's actions.

Skunk Works is dedicated to enabling crewed-uncrewed teaming to optimize operational flexibility, abbreviate data-to-decision timelines and improve pilot safety. We continue to invest in collaborative enablers to keep our customers ahead of emerging threats.

Quelle:
Lockheed Martin Press Release 21 November 2024

Deutsche Aircraft selects Honeywell to provide high frequency radio system for the D328eco®

Honeywell **(NASDAQ: HON)** has been selected by Deutsche Aircraft, a German aircraft manufacturer, to supply its Primus HF-1050 high-frequency (HF) radio system for the recently debuted 40-seater D328eco turboprop. The HF-1050 is designed to deliver global voice communications, leveraging its unique features to enhance reliability and performance for operators worldwide. The selection of the HF-1050 supports Honeywell's alignment of its portfolio to three compelling megatrends: automation, the future of aviation and energy transition.

As a high-frequency system, the HF-1050 enables seamless communication over vast distances with built-in technology that reduces background noise, ensuring clearer transmissions between pilots and air traffic controllers.

"We are delighted to continue our partnership with Deutsche Aircraft and support the D328eco program," said **Flavio Michio Osanai, EMEAI Vice President, Business & General Aviation Sales at Honeywell Aerospace Technologies.** "Deutsche Aircraft's selection of the HF-1050 underscores our commitment to the future of aviation and reinforces our focus on delivering reliable, cutting-edge avionics solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers and their passengers."

Honeywell avionics are already widely deployed on in-service D328® aircraft such as the Dornier 328-100 and Dornier 328-300. The selection of the HF-1050 builds on Honeywell's longstanding relationship with Deutsche Aircraft and highlights its continued support for the Dornier fleet.

"We are pleased to partner with Honeywell to bring this proven communication technology to the D328eco," said **Patricia Ferrari, Vice President of Supply Chain at Deutsche Aircraft.** "The HF-1050 system will offer operators a modernised aircraft that is equipped with reliable, long-range communication capabilities that will contribute to more efficient flights across the globe."

Deutsche Aircraft plans to manufacture up to 48 D328eco aircraft per year at its state-of-the-art Final Assembly Line at Leipzig/Halle Airport. The D328eco aims to revolutionise regional aviation with an environmentally friendly and cost-effective platform. With its advanced technologies and sustainable design, the D328eco offers operators enhanced fuel efficiency and reduced emissions, contributing to a greener future for the aviation industry.

Quelle:
Deutsche Aircraft Press Release 21 November 2024

Qantas Group pilot training set to soar in new Sydney flight training centre

Qantas and CAE have officially opened Sydney's new purpose-built training centre today, where thousands of new and existing Qantas and Jetstar pilots will train each year.

The state-of-the-art facility in St Peters near Sydney Airport, developed in partnership with global training provider CAE, is now home to five full-flight simulators, three fixed training devices and ten classrooms. Further tranches of training equipment will arrive in the coming years, including Australia's first Airbus A350 simulator that will train Qantas pilots for ultra-long-haul Project Sunrise flights.

The new centre marks the return of Sydney-based flight training for the Group after Qantas relocated its simulators from Sydney to Melbourne and Brisbane in 2021 to make way for the NSW Government's Sydney Gateway road project.

CAE will operate the new centre and maintain all training equipment. Senior Qantas and Jetstar training captains will continue to train pilots from both airlines, with pilots typically undertaking four simulator sessions per year to remain current in their formal qualifications and up to 15 sessions when training for a new aircraft type.

Pilots and cabin crew will also complete their ground training at the St Peters centre with emergency procedures equipment and aircraft cabin mock-ups until mid-2026 when Qantas will open a new dedicated ground training facility in Mascot. The relocation of ground training equipment will open up additional space at the CAE Sydney flight training centre and enable its transition to a dedicated pilot training facility which will allow the Group to meet growing demand as it welcomes new aircraft.

The formal opening of the centre follows a recent major investment in skills and training that includes a new Qantas Group Safety Academy, a $40 million investment in new ground training facilities and equipment across the country, and the doubling of Qantas Group Pilot Academy scholarships in 2025. The first group of apprentices through the new Qantas Engineering Academy are also due to start in January next year.

COMMENTS

Qantas International CEO Cam Wallace said the new facility was key to the Qantas Group continuing its half a century history of training pilots in Sydney.

“Qantas is proud of its strong safety culture and the skill and expertise of our pilots have long been recognised globally. This new facility is a key part of ensuring that these high standards continue across our next generation of aircraft and aviators in this country,” said Mr. Wallace.

“We have more than a hundred new aircraft on order for Qantas and Jetstar which create significant opportunities for our people and Australia’s aviation industry, and the huge demand for crew training will be supported by the new flight training centre and our partners at CAE.”

“Sydney will be the anchor city for our Project Sunrise flights when they launch and our pilots will train for their flights here in the facility once the A350 simulator arrives,” added Mr. Wallace.

CAE Chief Operating Officer Nick Leontidis said that the Sydney centre’s inauguration is an important milestone as the company celebrates 30 years of supporting aviation training in Australia.

*“*Safety is paramount for the Qantas Group and CAE. The purpose of this training centre, its advanced simulators and team of experts, is to create an optimal training environment for Qantas and Jetstar crew to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence to be ready for the moments that matter. With a network of more than 70 civil training centres around the world, including three in Australia, CAE will lend its innovation and expertise in efficient training operations to meet the Qantas Group’s training requirements as it grows its fleet. We salute the longstanding relationship we enjoy with Qantas and look forward to supporting Project Sunrise with CAE’s latest generation Airbus A350 full-flight simulator”.

Full motion full-flight simulators (FFS) and fixed flight training devices (FTD) to be located at the new Sydney flight training centre will cover various platforms, including Airbus A320, A330, A380, A350, Boeing 787 and B738.

Quelle:
CAE Press Release 18 November 2024

RAFAEL to Supply a NATO Country with Advanced ECM systems

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is pleased to announce a contract to supply vessels of a NATO country with the latest generation of its Digital Shark Naval Electronic Countermeasure (ECM) Systems. This advanced, system will provide NATO fleets with unparalleled capabilities to dominate the electromagnetic spectrum for both defensive and offensive operations. The Digital Shark system will be showcased at EURONAVAL 2024 on November 4 in Paris, where attendees can explore its full range of cutting-edge capabilities.

Rafael’s Digital Shark system represents the forefront of naval Electronic Warfare (EW) technology, engineered to identify and neutralize complex radar threats autonomously. With its digital receiver, the system is capable of detecting a wide range of radar threats, from missile seekers to designation radars. Once a threat is detected, Digital Shark can respond

autonomously and instantaneously by directing high-power electromagnetic beams to disrupt the radar's function, rendering it ineffective.

The 3rd Generation Digital Shark employs an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) that allows for rapid and precise beam steering and a high-power jammer for robust offensive countermeasures. Additionally, it incorporates advanced Digital RF Memory (DRFM) technology, enhancing its ability to deceive and neutralize even the most sophisticated radar systems.

The Digital Shark ECM system joins Rafael's growing portfolio of naval EW countermeasure solutions, which includes the C-GEM active decoy, further solidifying Rafael's position as a leading provider of next-generation naval defense solutions. Together, these capabilities offer comprehensive protection, equipping naval forces with the tools necessary to maintain a tactical edge in complex maritime environments.

VP Ran Tavor, Head of Naval Systems Division, RAFAEL:"Rafael is honored to support a NATO member with the Digital Shark ECM system, reinforcing our commitment to pioneering innovation in naval electronic warfare and ensuring the resilience and superiority of our allies at sea. The Digital Shark's 3rd Generation capabilities not only elevate electronic defense but also bolster offensive responses, adapting to the diverse challenges presented by today's advanced radar threats."

With the addition of Digital Shark, Rafael continues to demonstrate leadership in providing world-class naval defense solutions tailored to the evolving landscape of modern maritime warfare.

Quelle:
RAFAEL Press Release 11 November 2024

Dassault Systèmes and Cranfield University Launch Applied MBSE Course to Address Key Skills Shortages in UK Aviation

Dassault Systèmes and Cranfield University have come together to launch their first-ever Applied Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) continuous professional development (CPD) course, seeking to address key skills shortages in the U.K. aviation industry.

This new program is designed to equip system engineers with essential MBSE mindsets and skillsets, addressing industry demands for enhanced methodologies in product development. Developed in collaboration with leading industry partners, the Applied MBSE course bridges the gap between theory and practice, ensuring attendees are prepared to tackle complex challenges in modern engineering.

MSBE is crucial for the future of U.K. aviation as original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) grapple with increasing product complexity and global collaboration requirements. The Applied MBSE course aims to fill the skills gap by providing up-to-date training that emphasises early error detection, collaboration enhancement, and cost reduction.

Learners will become proficient in Dassault Systèmes´ solutions such as CATIA applications and the 3DEXPERIENCE platform that allows OEMs and suppliers to view their shared projects in a virtual environment and handle everything from design and simulation to predicting supply bottlenecks and ultimately speeding up delivery times.

This marks a significant milestone in Dassault Systèmes and Cranfield University's ongoing partnership, having already come together to establish a Centre of Excellence that was announced at the Paris Air Show in 2023 to drive future skills and innovation in the aerospace sector.

Quelle:
Dassault Systemes Press Release 20 November 2024

CEO Lars Wagner steht für weitere Amtszeit nicht zur Verfügung

Wagner wird ab 2026 eine neue berufliche Chance ergreifen
| Aufsichtsrat wird sich nun kurzfristig mit der Klärung der Nachfolge befassen

München, 30. Oktober 2024 | Der Vorstandsvorsitzende der MTU Aero Engines AG, Lars Wagner (49), hat heute den Aufsichtsrat darüber informiert, seinen bis zum 31. Dezember 2025 laufenden Vertrag nicht verlängern zu wollen. Er wird sich ab 2026 einer neuen beruflichen Aufgabe außerhalb des Unternehmens widmen. Der Vorsitzende des Aufsichtsrats, Gordon Riske, hat diese Information mit großem Bedauern entgegengenommen.

Lars Wagner: „Als passionierter Luftfahrer werde ich nach zehn Jahren meine berufliche Heimat MTU verlassen und eine neue Aufgabe in der Branche übernehmen. Die MTU ist ein erfolgreiches Unternehmen mit langer Tradition, Leidenschaft für Innovation und besten Zukunftsaussichten. Trotz zuletzt großer Herausforderungen ist die MTU auf Erfolgskurs, das belegen unsere jüngsten Ergebnisse. Gleichwohl habe ich mich entschieden, ab 2026 eine neue berufliche Chance zu ergreifen. In der verbleibenden Zeit werde ich für die MTU unverändert Schub geben, um gemeinsam mit den Kolleginnen und Kollegen die operative und finanzielle Performance weiter zu steigern und die Basis für eine erfolgreiche Zukunft mit profitablem Wachstum zu sichern."

Gordon Riske: „Lars Wagner hat in verschiedenen Funktionen bei der MTU Aero Engines AG mit enormem Engagement sehr positive Akzente gesetzt, seit Januar 2023 als Vorstandsvorsitzender. Seine Entscheidung, das Unternehmen nach Erfüllung des aktuellen Vertrages verlassen zu wollen, habe ich mit großem Bedauern zur Kenntnis genommen. Der Aufsichtsrat wird sich nun kurzfristig mit der Klärung der Nachfolge befassen."

Quelle:
MTU Press Release 30 October 2024

Over 100 jobs created as Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry opens new Rolls-Royce office in Glasgow

Rolls-Royce Submarines today celebrated the opening of a new office in Glasgow, creating over 100 new jobs in the region.

Opened by the Rt Hon Maria Eagle MP, Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry, the new office at the Airport Business Park in Glasgow has created 120 specialist roles in electrical controls and instrumentation and cyber security.

Funded by the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Glasgow office was selected to help access the skilled talent pools in the region. New starters will support the Dreadnought programme and other growth in demand from the Royal Navy, including work in support of the AUKUS agreement.

Rolls-Royce Submarines currently employs more than 5,000 people to design, manufacture and provide in-service support to the pressurised water reactors that power every boat in the Royal Navy's submarine fleet.

In March 2023, it was confirmed that Rolls-Royce Submarines would provide all the nuclear reactor plants that will power new attack submarines as part of the tri-lateral agreement between Australia, the UK and US.

Rolls-Royce is currently supporting the existing Astute and Dreadnought boat build programmes through the delivery of reactor plant and associated components. Additionally, it provides frontline support across the world for reactor plant equipment from its Operations Centre in Derby and supports the submarines when in the Barrow-in-Furness shipyard and the naval bases at Devonport and Faslane.

Quelle:
Rolls-Royce Press Release 22 November 2024

Diamond Aircraft Further Expands in Middle East with New Abu Dhabi Flight School and DA50 Delivery

On the occasion of Air Expo Abu Dhabi 2024, Diamond Aircraft announces a contract for the acquisition of two DA40 und one DA42 aircraft by Abu Dhabi's newly-founded 'Project Aviation' flight school, as well as the delivery of the first DA50 RG to the UAE.

"We are thrilled by the rapidly growing popularity Diamond Aircraft is enjoying in the UAE and wider Middle East region, especially in the private market," said Jane Wang, Director Sales, Marketing, and Flight Ops at Diamond Aircraft Austria.

"We'd like to wish Project Aviation the utmost success as they embark on their exciting new endeavor and thank them for placing their trust in Diamond Aircraft. With so many Diamond aircraft already proving their mettle in flight schools across the region, we know they have made the right choice."

Diamond Aircraft's single-engine DA40 and twin-engine DA42 piston aircraft are used worldwide by preeminent flight schools to train the next generation of pilots. Powered by jet-fuel for maximum efficiency and sustainability, and featuring state-of-the-art Garmin glass-cockpit avionics, they provide the best flight training performance characteristics and safety record in the industry.

"The Diamond DA40 and DA42 align perfectly with Project Aviation's goal to offer premium-quality flight training in the best-equipped training aircraft on the market," said

Abdulla Al Zaabi, Project Aviation's founder and owner. "We're looking forward to taking receipt of the aircraft next year."

Further to the purchase of the DA40 and DA42 aircraft, Al Zaabi also recently took delivery of a brand new DA50 RG aircraft for private use, becoming the UAE's first owner of Diamond Aircraft's newest aircraft model.

"The Diamond DA50 RG is proving a real pleasure to fly – including on the flight from Austria to the UAE, which I can safely say was the trip of a lifetime," said Al Zaabi. "Since collecting the plane in October, I've already logged over 40 hours flight time making trips to Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere in the region."

The single-engine DA50 RG features an all-carbon-fibre airframe, a powerful 300hp CD300 jet-fuel engine, retractable landing gear, and an extra-large cabin that can seat up to five passengers with ample space left over for extra luggage.

Quelle:
Diamond Aircraft Press Release 19 November 2024