



Airbus details developments at Helitech International

STAND C100

Airbus Helicopters has made an array of announcements at Helitech International, from new technical developments to platform sales.

On 4 October, the OEM signed a contract with Airtelis, with the support of Nova Capital Group, for three H215 helicopters.

Airtelis utilises aircraft for infrastructure assembly, repair and maintenance support as well as load transportation. The company's fleet currently comprises two H225s. The first H215 will be delivered in late October.

Régis Magnac, head of customer operations at Airbus, told *Helitech International Daily News* that the show has been a great success for



H225 in flight at Helitech International. (Photo: Grant Turnbull)

the company, both in terms of orders and the opportunity to display a number of its platforms, including the H125, H135, H145 and H160.

'This has been a great Helitech International for Airbus Helicopters, and we are proud to showcase our

large and versatile range of helicopters and services at the show. We are here to support our customers, and continue to help them succeed in their operations, as with Airtelis who has placed their trust in us for three H215s,' he said.

In a separate announcement, Airbus detailed its onboard image processing capabilities for VTOL systems as part of Project EAGLE – Eye for Autonomous Guidance and Landing Extension. One of the project's main objectives is to improve safety and automation for future and current aircraft.

The experimental system is intended to aid with the execution of automatic approaches and landing in challenging environments. Initial flight tests on a testbed helicopter are expected imminently, while ground tests began five months ago.

The company also announced that it has recently finalised the first full-scale testing for the propulsion of the CityAirbus e-VTOL aircraft.

Furthermore, German operator Global Helicopter Service, which utilises the H225 – also present at Helitech International – is now the launch customer for the OEM's FlyScan data analysis software.

The big story for Airbus is the first public outing of the H225 at a major commercial helicopter show in Europe since the fatal incident in April of last year.

Guillaume Faury, CEO of Airbus Helicopters, commented at Helitech International: 'I understand it takes time to restore trust after this accident... [We] will explain the safety measures that have been put in place, and that's why I am very happy to be here at Helitech International to explain and to share and to guide people with the safety measures for the 225.'

By Helen Haxell

Record attempt pilot recounts survival story

Sergey Ananov's attempt to become the first solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe in a helicopter weighing less than 1t ended when he was forced to land in Arctic waters, he told delegates at Helitech International.

Ananov undertook the challenge in a Robinson R22. In the keynote session at the event, he explained that he believes a transmission failure caused the sudden loss of momentum while he was 200km from the nearest coast in the Hudson Strait in July 2015.

Without enough fuel to make it back to land, he landed the R22

on water in the Arctic Circle, where the Delorme inReach satellite tracker installed on the aircraft transmitted one final signal before the helicopter sank.

This provided rescuers with a location reading of the aircraft at the point of the forced landing, but left Ananov stranded on an ice floe.

'It was definitely one of the most dangerous places to crash... remote and cold,' Ananov said, as he described his two-day ordeal before being rescued by the *Pierre Radisson*, a Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker.

Despite the dramatic end to the adventure with only 15% of the route



left to fly, Ananov told *Helitech International Daily News* of his determination to reattempt the challenge, once again in an R22.

By Alice Budge

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