

RUAG Aviation Upgrades RMAF Falcon 900

RUAG Aviation's Geneva maintenance facility under, contract with Malaysia's Airod Sdn Bhd, has recently carried out an extensive upgrade on a Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Falcon 900 aircraft.

In addition to performing a major 4C check, RUAG Aviation were contracted to update and overhaul the aircraft's avionic systems as well as fully renovate the cabin. "This was a large scale project under challenging timescales," says a RUAG spokesman.

RUAG Aviation installed a new Honeywell Ovation cabin management system, their first undertaking of Ovation Select on a Falcon 900. In addition, the upgrade also included fitment of innovative electronic dimming window shades from Vision Systems. "This was the first such installation on any aircraft worldwide and shows the commitment of the RMAF in adopting the latest technology," he adds. Further the aircraft upgrade included installation of Airshow 4000 and Satcom 7000 systems as well as a fully renovated cabin interior including new seating and LED lighting. RUAG Aviation partnered with renowned OEM's and solution providers including Honeywell, Vision Systems, AIP, ACH and EMTEQ in delivering this high technology solution.

RUAG Aviation assumed total project management as a full service provider. "This meant that the check package, maintenance work and the extensive modification work could simultaneously be carried out offering a single solution for the customer", noted David Jones, General Manager for RUAG Aviation in Malaysia.

The close cooperation between Airod, RMAF and RUAG ensured that this project was completed in November 2014.

RUAG Aviation is a leading supplier, support provider and integrator of aircraft systems and components for civil and military customers. The company is the principal life cycle support partner for the Swiss Air Force and supports many Air Forces around the globe. ■



Spotlight on Bell UH-1Y Utility Helicopter

Bell Helicopters is looking at numerous opportunities in the Asia Pacific region for its latest generation Bell UH-1Y (Yankee) and AH-1Z (Zulu) military helicopters. In an exclusive interaction with Daily News, Richard Harris, VP, International Military Sales, Global Military Business, Bell Helicopter, said, "I am excited by the opportunity that the entire region offers Bell. The UH-1Y and AH-1Z used by the US Marine Core (USMC) are designed to operate at sea 24/7, and perfectly suited for operations in this region."

Both the Yankee and Zulu have been in operational service with the USMC since 2010, and it was only in 2012, that Bell received permission to proceed with export campaigns for the two helicopters. "Both types have since proceeded to gain traction in the export market," said Richard. Malaysia has a requirement for six helicopters in the UH-1Y class. "The Malaysian Government is very interested and we are talking to the Government on this matter," said Richard, "Malaysia needs a helicopter with the range and capability of the 'Yankee' clarifies Richard. The other offering

that rounds up Bell's military portfolio is the V-22 'Osprey' tiltrotor, which is also receiving substantial interest from operators worldwide.

The USMC will acquire a total of 349 helicopters, 160 Yankee's and 189 Zulu's. The need for the UH-1Y was so great, it was shipped to Afghanistan to meet the urgent operational requirements of the Marines; once Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) had been obtained for the type and completed the rest of its work-up into squadron service from there. USMC UH-1Y helicopters are displaying availability rates in excess of 90 percent in operational service and the new type offers a 30 percent reduction in Life Cycle Costs (LCC), when compared to legacy helicopter types. The marinized airframes offer superior corrosion resistance in sea/coastal/humid environments. The Yankee also comes with a fully integrated, night vision goggle (NVG) compatible glass cockpit with large easy to read displays. The helicopter is also fitted with an integrated advanced Electronic Warfare Self Protection (EWSP) suite with missile approach warning sensors and chaff and flare dispensers. ■