

The Royal Thai Army Acquires Six Airbus Helicopters EC145 T2



A further addition to the Royal Thai Army's (RTA) rotorcraft fleet has been committed with the acquisition of six Airbus Helicopters light-utility EC145 T2, which is the newest and most powerful model in Airbus Helicopters' proven EC145 light twin-engine helicopter family.

The RTA signed for six EC145 T2s with a VIP installation, under the light utility helicopter Type II requirement, to be deployed principally on official passenger transport duties, with deliveries scheduled to begin in 2016.

"By acquiring the EC145 T2, the RTA again demonstrates its confidence in Airbus Helicopters' products and services, following the successful entry into service of the AS550 C3e armed reconnaissance Helicopters in 2014 and the imminent delivery of the UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopters from the US," said Philippe Monteux, Airbus Helicopters' Head of Region South East Asia and Pacific.

The EC145 T2 features a modern digital cockpit and a 4-axis autopilot. With a maximum take-off weight of 3.65 tons, the heli-

copter is powered by Turbomeca Arriel 2E powerplants equipped with dual-channel full authority digital engine controls (FADEC). Operational safety is enhanced by Airbus Helicopters' Fenestron shrouded tail rotor, particularly for landings and takeoffs in confined landing sites, as well as during loading/unloading

on the ground while the rotor is turning.

The UH-72A is a version of the EC145 type produced by Airbus Helicopters' plant in Columbus, Mississippi for the United States Army and Navy. Six units were acquired by the RTA in December 2013 from the US Army under the Foreign Military Sales programme.

RUAG Signs Defence Contract for MAHUSS with Australia

RUAG was awarded of a multi-million dollar defence contract for Multi Aircraft Hydraulic and Undercarriage Systems Support (MAHUSS) to RUAG Australia.

The 4-year, multi-million dollar performance based contract, will deliver innovative maintenance solutions to ensure availability and reliability of hydraulic and flight control systems for the classic Hornet (F/A-18A/B) and the AP-3C Orion fleets of the Australian Defence Force. The performance based contract includes also MRO services for the S-70B Seahawk and the CH-47 Chinook fleets. Most of the work will be carried out at recently rebranded RUAG Australia's facilities in Victoria and Queensland (formerly Rosebank Engineering Australia). Initiatives within the contract will see RUAG Australia increase its on-site presence at RAAF Base Williamtown in NSW, further reducing sustainment cost and increasing aircraft availability.

The award of this contract strengthens RUAG Australia's positioning as the 'Partner of Choice' for Defence and industry customers for aircraft component and sub-systems manufacture and support. "We are proud to have been awarded the MAHUSS contract. It reinforces our view of the importance of the Australian market for RUAG", says Philipp Berner, CEO Division RUAG Aviation. ♦

DCI's New Helicopter International Training Centre

DCI is announcing the opening of a brand new helicopter international training centre (H-CIF) registered in Dax and located within the French military pilot training centres (Dax and Luc-en-Provence). The H-ITC courses are taught in English or in French and jointly with the French Army Aviation (ALAT) and Helidax.

This new training centre is meeting a fast growing demand from friendly countries regarding pilot training, from initial level up to complex missions management. These trainings are performed on the Helidax 36 EC120 equipped with

modern features such as glass cockpit or on military aircrafts, when appropriate. During his training and stay in France, each trainee benefits from a customised support provided by DCI and covering accommodation, food and transport.

"I am delighted by the creation of this new centre which stands as testimony of the close relationship between DCI and the French Army Aviation. DCI has a renowned expertise in the helicopter field among friendly countries, be it in pilot training or in maintenance operations. We stand convinced by the success of this training centre aimed at foreign pilots," declares general Patrick Tanguy, DCI-COFRAS director.

