

HELIDATA

News & Classified

Incorporating

Helicopter INTERNATIONAL and MILITARY HELICOPTER NEWS

Editorial Offices:

75 Elm Tree Road, Locking,
Weston-super-Mare,
Somerset, BS24 8EL, England
Tel: +44 (0)1934 822524

Publisher/Editor

ELFAN ap REES
First SMM MBIM Associate RAeS

Managing Editor

Claire ap Rees

North American Editor

Kenneth Swartz

Contributing Editors

Alan Norris
Philippe Boulay
Emanuele Ghiroldi
Robert Heath
Trevor Rees

Research

John Phillips

Administration

Tracey Watkins
Lucia ap Rees

Advertising Department

E-Mail: office@helidata.info

HELiWEB

www.aviapress.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

HELIDATA News & Classified is published and printed 25 times annually on alternate Wednesdays by Avia Press Associates. It is sold to named subscribers only on a confidential basis. Reproduction in any form of its contents is expressly forbidden. The annual subscription rates are £200.00 UK/Europe, Outside Europe £250.00 (US Dollar cheques drawn on US bank only: \$450.00).

Subscribers receive copies before general release on the website.

Payment by Visa/Mastercard/Bank Transfer is acceptable.

Subscriptions should be forwarded with Name/Address details to HELIDATA (Subs) 75 Elm Tree Road, Locking, Weston-s-Mare, Somerset, England, BS24 8EL

ISSN 1740-7788

© Avia Press Associates 2023

Volume 44 Number 18

6th September 2023

The former UK defence secretary Ben Wallace, who stepped down from the role on 31 August is reported to have spent his final weeks in office **trying to cancel the order** for 14 **Boeing Chinook MH-47E** Extended Range heavy lift helicopters, as part of a cost-cutting exercise to relieve pressure on the Ministry of Defence's tight budgets. Industry sources suggested that delaying the purchase could give savings close to £200 million.

The Chinook Foreign Military Sales deal was backed by the United States government, which said that the order would improve the UK's ability to contribute to joint operations with NATO partners, but the costs have since increased by approximately £500 million and senior UK officials believe the money could be better spent on less expensive medium-lift support helicopters. Concerns have also been expressed that the UK lacks the communications, satellite technology and other support needed to carry out Special Forces operations with the Chinooks. The argument more recently escalated to involve the British and American ambassadors after Wallace reportedly issued the cancellation threat directly to the US Secretary of Defence in early August, before an agreed position had been reached among ministers in London.

Continued

The Robinson Experts

MAINTAINING ROBINSON HELICOPTERS IN THE UK SINCE 1985



HeliAir | MAINTENANCE

INSPECTIONS • SERVICING • OVERHAULS • RENOVATIONS • AVIONICS UPGRADES

+44 1494 451111

LONDON WYCOMBE AIRPARK HARLOW BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GL7 5DF

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

TELL HELIDATA ON

+44(0)1934 822524,

e-mail office@helidata.info



Deliveries of the new Chinooks were scheduled to begin by 2026, but its not yet known if the spat will see a delay in the programme or even a cancellation by the new Defence Minister, Grant Shapps. Under the current plans the MoD remains committed to procuring the 14 H-47ER helicopters, with the nine oldest airframes due to be retired and replaced by new aircraft. A review of the delivery schedule is currently underway, with a report to the MoD Investment Approvals Committee due later this year.

A US Marine Corps **MV-22B Osprey** tilt rotor was **substantially damaged** when it crashed and caught fire in a remote area on Melville Island, approx 60km (37miles) north of Darwin, Australia on 27 August. The pilot had previously declared an emergency whilst taking part in a joint training exercise with 2,500 troops from the USA, Australia, the Philippines, East Timor and Indonesia.

Three US Marines were killed and 20 injured, with five being flown back to Darwin by CareFlight for urgent treatment. The aircraft was one of two Ospreys deployed by the Marine Rotational force Darwin, a USMC Air-Ground Task force with some 150 personnel, based in the Northern Territory for training and support exercises with neighbouring countries in the region

The Royal Australian Navy base at **HMAS Albatross**, Nowra in New South Wales is to receive a major **upgrade ahead** of the arrival of 13 new Sikorsky **MH-60R Seahawk helicopters**. The work will include resurfaced tarmacs, landing strips and apron waves to accommodate the extra helicopters, at a cost of more than A\$120 million. The aim is to complete the upgrades by the end of next year, ahead of the arrival of the 13 additional helicopters, which are due to enter service by mid-2025.

The Seahawk fleet will eventually replace the NH Industries MRH 90 Taipan helicopters in Navy service for assault and rescue missions as well as boosting the anti-submarine and anti-surface vessel capabilities of the fleet.

The **US** State Department gave official **approval** on 21 August to **Poland's** request to purchase 96 Boeing **AH-64E Apache** Guardian attack helicopters, saying "the proposed **sale** will improve the country's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations".

Training of Polish aircrew began in August, with eight AH-64E helicopters loaned from US Army stocks to help accelerate the attack capability and replace legacy Russian Mil Mi-24/35 attack helicopters. The training element is expected to be completed by the end of this year, after which the eight aircraft will enter operational service with the Polish Army.

To back up the helicopters, Poland has ordered 1,844 Lockheed Martin AGM-114 Hellfire anti-armour missiles and 460 Joint Air-to-Ground (JAG) missiles, as well as 508 Raytheon FIM-92 Stinger anti-air missiles and ammunition for the 30mm Chain gun. Also included in the order are target acquisition sights, night vision sensors, multiple fire control radars and other advanced sensors and optics.

The Polish government selected the Apache over the competing Bell AH-1Z Viper attack helicopter in September last year, under its "Kruk" programme to procure a modern attack helicopter fleet. Boeing currently has ongoing orders for 184 AH-64Es for the US Army and Foreign Military Sales customers, and recently began production of six aircraft for the Indian Army, due to be delivered next year. More than 1,275 Apaches are currently in operation around the world.

Sikorsky Aircraft has received a new \$2.7 billion **contract** to build and **deliver 35 additional CH-53K heavy-lift helicopters**, the largest procurement to date for the aircraft. The agreement includes 12 Lot 7 and 15 Lot 8 helicopters for the US Marine Corps, and eight for the Israeli Defence Forces.

Israel already has four CH-53Ks on order under a US Foreign Military Sales agreement signed last year, for Special Forces missions, troop and cargo transport, and search and rescue work. Full rate production of the CH-53K was launched in December 2022 and deliveries of all the new CH-53Ks will begin in 2026, as Sikorsky continues to ramp up to increase production to more than 20 helicopters annually in the coming years.


The head of Ukraine's Defence Intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, reported in late August that a **Russian** helicopter pilot deliberately **flew his Mil Mi-8** across the border **into** eastern **Ukraine** as part of a plan to **defect** with members of his family. Russian sources confirmed the capture of the Mi-8 but claimed it was lured across the border to the town of Vovchansk in Kharkiv, whilst carrying spares for Sukhoi Su-27 and Su-30SM fighters.

Three crew were aboard the Mi-8 when it landed but the two supernumeraries were apparently

unaware of the defection plot and were shot whilst trying to escape. The pilot was subsequently reunited with his family, who had been smuggled across the border undetected. His helicopter has now been flown to a Ukrainian base and added to the Armed Forces fleet after a detailed examination of its equipment.

Although two unofficial Russian Telegram channels have confirmed aspects of the Ukrainian Defence report, definitive verification from other sources has so far not been available.

Bell 47G5 1961



Lycoming VO435B1A with a 600 series gearbox.

This iconic helicopter is in fantastic order with very good component times and will have a fresh annual. A very economical helicopter to own and use, great to learn in, hour build on or just because you can. Help with maintenance, training, hangarage available. £120,000.00 VAT paid UK based. **All enquiries contact Paul Smith 07711050938 paul@scarrend.co.uk**



- OFFSHORE WORLDWIDE

Although the emergency flotation bags inflated almost immediately, rough seas caused the aircraft to invert. Even so all nine persons aboard managed to exit the helicopter, but four subsequently drowned whilst awaiting rescue, due to some confusion and incorrect operation of life preservers.

The S-76D involved was registered VT-PWI and was the first of its type to enter service with Pawan Hans for offshore operations with the Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission, under a contract to replace the ageing Aerospatiale AS365N3 Dauphin fleet. Following the crash ONGC worker unions refused to fly in the S-76D, forcing the company to revert to the legacy aircraft. A major contributing factor in the accident was the bad weather and estimated 3km (two mile) visibility during an active monsoon period, coinciding with the pilot-in-command distracted at a critical juncture as he went heads down to put the weather radar to stand by and exacerbated by shortcomings in the subsequent rescue efforts.

Offshore Helicopters UK, the former CHC operation that was acquired by the Ultimate Aviation Group last April, has signed a new multi-year contract extension with **Serica Energy**, who will use Airbus H175 and Sikorsky S-92 aircraft to service their current North Sea operations, in particular the *Bruce* offshore platform. Serica has a mix of oil and gas production, delivering from a number of hubs in the UK sector of the North Sea and is currently responsible for about five percent of the natural gas produced in the UK.

The *Bruce* complex lies 340km (211 miles) to the northeast of Aberdeen and consists of three bridge-linked platforms, including a utilities quarters platform with accommodation for 168 personnel, a drilling platform, and a compression/reception platform.

The new agreement with Offshore Helicopters UK is for five years but with potential extensions for at least a further three years.

Moroccan operator **Heliconia**, formed in 2008 following a buy out of Helisud Moroc by partners Daniel Sigaud and Aurélie Georges, who then changed the company name to Heliconia in 2012 and has since **expanded** to operate **offshore** in **Senegal, Mauritania and Ghana**, as well as onshore work in Morocco, where the company focuses on VIP, tourism, power line maintenance and developing national emergency medical services.

Today the company operates eight Leonardo AW139 helicopters on offshore contracts, with a well established Leonardo service centre in Morocco and a second one being set up in Senegal. Onshore the fleet includes nine Airbus AS350B variants and one EC130B4.

Bristow Ireland has **confirmed** the signing of a contract with the Irish Department of Transport for the provision of helicopter and fixed-wing services for the **Irish Coast Guard**, following the rejection of a complaint by CHC regarding the proposed award earlier this year (*HeliData News 44/12 14 June*). Bristow will now begin transitioning to the new contract in the fourth quarter of 2024.

The helicopter element of the agreement will see the company introducing six Leonardo AW189s, configured for search and rescue and with the latest evolution of mission systems, reflecting the requirements of the Coast Guard. As expected, the helicopters will operate from four dedicated bases in Sligo, Shannon, Waterford and Dublin Weston, replacing the CHC helicopters at these locations. In addition Bristow is to introduce two specialised Beech King Air fixed-wing aircraft, based at Shannon Airport to provide operational support. This role will include providing sophisticated mission management and communications in coordination with the helicopter fleet and top cover support to helicopters engaged in long range medical evacuations.

The new service will provide nationwide all-weather 24 hour coverage, 365 days a year and Bristow

will create or sustain more than 150 jobs under the contract. These range from specialist ground support, engineering, flight operations and in-country maintenance support capabilities, aimed at ensuring the teams and aircraft stand at full readiness to respond to Irish Coast Guard taskings at all times.

The **Indian** Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (**AAIB**) recently published its **finalised** investigation **report into the crash of a Sikorsky S-76D** helicopter, operated by Pawan Hans Ltd, which was written off during an offshore flight on 28 June 2022 from Mumbai to a jackup drilling rig, the *Sagerkiran*, working some 105km (65 miles) off Mumbai. Four passengers drowned in the incident, whilst three others plus the two pilots were recovered from the sea by search and rescue agencies.

The report concludes that the probable main cause of the accident was uncontrolled flight during the approach to the rig due to an aggressive nose up manoeuvre, coupled with full lowering of the collective lever by the co-pilot flying the aircraft. This resulted in a steep autorotative descent at almost zero speed but with a descent rate of some 610m (2,000ft) per minute, followed by a high energy impact with the water.



Skyline Heliport, which **took over** the **Toronto Polson Pier car parking lot**, which includes a helipad in its northwest corner in July adjacent to the harbour, is planning a significant upgrade of the helicopter facilities there. Beginning with a new 46m (150ft) 46m (150ft) landing pad and ramp, construction is due to begin in mid-September. That part of the project should be completed by late October.

In the meantime the company will also begin building a terminal, including a lounge for customers and arrival and departure areas, and space overlooking the city skyline for corporate or social events. Also included in this phase will be a hangar, large enough to hold three helicopters the size of the Airbus AS350, with external space on the ramp for three more, or two medium helicopters such as the Leonardo AW139 and Sikorsky S-76. This work should be completed by January 2024, subject to weather. Should more helicopter parking space be required the company says an adjacent section of the separate car park can be converted.

In recently years Skyline says there have been 30-50 arrivals per month at the old helipad but the company expects this level of use to double at the new facility and gradually increase to 150 arrivals per month. The initial users are expected to be corporate and private operators, but Skyline expects air medical and US operators to become frequent visitors, whilst it is also planning to attract a sightseeing operator using light helicopters to tour the city. Business for such flights could be boosted by visiting Charter Cruise Ships, such as the *Empress of Canada*, which regularly uses a berth alongside the northern edge of the property.

Skyline Heliport is the brain child of entrepreneur Peter Mallar, an ex-US Navy aviator and self-confessed aviation fanatic. He expects his new venture to be certified by Transport Canada as an H3 heliport, operating under VFR rules from dawn to dusk on a daily basis, and expects to expand from the current 20 to 50 employees within the next three years.

The Federal Aviation Administration has **extended** its **deadline** for comments on its draft advisory circular relating to commercial air tour **operators** in **Hawaii**, following the recent fire devastation in Maui. Published on 4 August, with an original 30 day comment period, the deadline for public comment has now been altered to 6 October.

The advisory circular maps out a process under which operators can apply for permission to carry out air tours at altitudes below 457m (1,500ft) above AGL in order to remain in VMC conditions and avoid entering IMC. Currently air tour operators are not allowed to fly tours at lower altitudes in Hawaii without FAA approval. If approved the draft circular could take effect from next spring, replacing the current Hawaii Air Tour Manual, which was last updated in 2008.

This document required a minimum visibility of 5km (3 miles) over land for air tours below 457m (1,500ft) far more restricting than normal day VFR guidelines in uncontrolled air space, which allows pilots to legally fly with only one half-mile visibility within 366m (1,200ft) of the surface. Despite these stricter requirements the NTSB found that it was common practice for Hawaii air tour operators to fly with less than 5km (3 miles) visibility and this was unofficially accepted by the community.

The call for the revision followed a US National Transport Safety Board investigation into a fatal helicopter crash in December 2019, when all seven people aboard an Airbus AS350B2 helicopter were killed when it encountered unexpected IMC and collided with terrain in a remote area on Kauai.

Boston-based US start-up company **Transcend Air** has **redesigned** its **tiltwing VTOL** aircraft and is now seeking funding to manufacture a proof-of-concept prototype. Previously the company was developing a six-seat aircraft, powered by a single 2,500shp GE Aerospace CT7-8 turboshaft engine and designed to carry a pilot and up to five passengers 724km (450 miles) at a cruise speed of 652km/h (405mph). Designated the Vy400 this has now been abandoned in favour of the larger Vy 421 design, which features twin CT7-8 engines and would carry seven passengers or 1,588kg (3,500lb) of cargo over 1,609km (1,000 miles) at 782km/h (486mph).

The company says it has already started work on a full scale proof-of-concept Vy421 and both this and a certification tracking prototype are now in the preliminary design stage. Transcend plans to certify the new design under the same special category for powered-lift aircraft as an eVTOL aircraft. However it says the turbine-powered design will avoid some of the limitations likely to be imposed on electric-powered VTOL Aviation Regulation (SFAR) operating and pilot certification rules for powered-lift aircraft. Transcend notes that the Vy421 uses off-the-shelf technology and complies with the SFAR in ways that none of the eVTOL

designs do, and is now seeking the new funding to cover the next phase of the proof-of-concept Vy 421 aircraft.

Previously the Vy 400 was funded by the US Air Force AFWerx innovation unit to study the design and larger derivatives for military missions but, whilst Transcend still sees a military market for that aircraft, its focus is now on the larger Vy 421, which has increased investor interest in the company's work.

Enstrom Helicopters has **launched** an active **recruitment campaign** to meet a growth in demand for its products and to help the company move forward on the development of new helicopters and features.

Based in Menominee, Michigan Enstrom currently has a workforce of more than 125 employees but has openings for more skilled engineers, managers, mechanics and other staff. Employees also receive the full backing of Enstrom parent company, Surack Enterprises, with industry-competitive wages and benefits and operating in a thriving small-town community on the shores of Lake Michigan, but with easy access to major nearby cities.

Further details of job vacancies etc are available on the enstromhelicopter.com website.

South Korean air taxi start up company, **Plana Aero** based in Giheung-gu south of Seol has **received a third order** for its **CP-01** six passenger hybrid electric eVTOL aircraft, this time from domestic regional company Hi-Air, which has signed up for 30 aircraft.

The CP-01 is driven by four tilting rotors installed in pairs on the main wing and on a foreplane plus two pusher airscrews at the rear of the fuselage and is expected to have a range up to 500km (310 miles) excluding reserve fuel. The company is already flying a one fifth scale model of the aircraft.

The agreement includes a Letter of Intent focusing on the aircraft order and a Memorandum of Understanding to see the two firms explore joint business models for cargo and passenger services. Hi-Air currently operates four ATR 72-500 twin turboprop aircraft from Ulsan airport to Gimpo, Muan, Suncheon and Jeju and across to Japan, and under the Letter of Intent will receive the first 10 CP-01 aircraft in 2031, with the remaining 20 to follow at a later date.

Plana also has Letters of Intent with Ghenus Air in the United

States for 20 aircraft and with Sky Taxi in Japan, which has signed up for 50 aircraft.

Sikorsky Aircraft and PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) signed a heads of agreement on 22 August during a visit by Indonesian Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto to the United States, providing for **local assembly and delivery of 20-24 S-70M Black Hawk** helicopters. In the event of a firm contract being signed, the aircraft would be built at the PZL Mielec plant in Poland, with PTDI carrying out completions and customisation to meet specific Indonesian Army requirements. The collaboration would also see PTDI employees being trained to carry out maintenance, repair and overhaul work on the S-70M and its engines.

Japanese air taxi startup company, **SkyDrive** in Toyota City has **secured two new Memorandums of Understanding** for the company's three seat **SD-05 eVTOL** aircraft. The first of these is for just five aircraft with charter operator, Austin Aviation in South Carolina, USA for future commercial operations. The second MoU is for 100 vehicles with the

Regional News

- ASIA PACIFIC REPORT

Vietnamese company CT UAV, a subsidiary of the CT Group based in Ho Minh City, which develops various kinds of Unmanned Air Vehicle technologies.

Alongside the MoU the two partners will evaluate commercial eVTOL services, such as vertiports routes and network planning, infrastructure requirements and eco-systems with interested stakeholders. Vietnam is of particular interest because significant traffic congestion is an everyday occurrence in the larger cities. Last November SkyDrive secured another pre order in the country from the Pacific Group for 100 SD-05 vehicles.

Established in July 2018 after four years of informally testing Flying Car concepts and prototypes, the company now hopes to debut the commercial aircraft at Expo 2024 in Osaka, Japan in 2025.

 	
	JET A1 supplied in bulk throughout UK F35 & F34 with FSII available.
Aviation Fuel & Ground Equipment	New and Refurbished Aviation Equipment Sale or Hire
Please see our website for further details on all the above	
AFS Aviation Ltd +44(0)1256 381912 www.afsaviation.co.uk	

The Somerset Chamber of Commerce, together with **Yeovil** town council has officially recognised the **Leonardo factory** in the town as the “**Home of British Helicopters,**” with new official signage greeting people arriving in Yeovil by road and rail, and with the sobriquet also appearing at local venues including Yeovil College, the Quedam Shopping Centre and the home of Yeovil Town Football Club.

To mark the occasion Leonardo held a commemorative event at its helicopter production line, attended by multiple generations of Leonardo employees, and with guests including local politicians, community partners and representatives from the Ministry of Defence. Guest speakers included Mark Bolton, the principal of Yeovil College, who reflected on how helicopter manufacturing is central to the fabric of the town, and how Leonardo is investing to ensure a bright future for the site’s 3,000 employees and local young people looking to embark on an exciting career in aerospace. This significance was echoed by Clive Higgins, a former apprentice at Leonardo and Yeovil College and now chair and CEO of Leonardo UK.

●Leonardo published the 2022 supply chain figures for its UK helicopter business in late August, as it continues to bid for the Ministry of Defence New Medium Helicopter (NMH) contract against Airbus and other competitors (*HeliData News passim*). The company says it has 750 businesses across the UK in its supply chain, spending £474 million on procurement in 2022 and helping to sustain around 12,000 British engineering and manufacturing jobs.

The Leonardo factory at Yeovil in Somerset assembles the AW101 and AW159 Wildcat but the focus now is on the AW149 NMH entry, which the company has pledged to build on a “cutting edge” production line, with between 60 to 70 percent of the platform’s content and through-life support being carried out in the UK at Leonardo and through UK suppliers.



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently certified a **new tail plane** configuration for the **Robinson R66** turbine helicopter, replacing the current asymmetrical horizontal stabiliser with a symmetrical design forward of the tail rotor. The new configuration, said to be similar to the tail plane used on the Bell 505 Jet Ranger X, has been shown to improve the roll response at high speeds yet has no impact on manoeuvrability at lower speeds. It also does not alter the authorised flight envelope.

The changes will be adopted as standard on all FAA registered R66 helicopters from construction number 1279, but not for other countries until the relevant civil airworthiness authorities also approve the change. Robinson says the company has already begun this process with the European Aviation Safety Agency and the UK Civil Aviation Authority. Less defined at this time is whether a retrofit kit will be made available for earlier R66 deliveries, which include over 350 on the US FAA register and some 530 in the rest of the world.

Skyports Drone Services, which has been carrying out VTOL flights for the Royal Mail in Scotland (*HeliData News 44/17 23 August*) recently **completed** a month long drone delivery **trial** in the East Suffolk and North Essex **NHS Foundation Trust area**, working with the EMED Group which holds a medical transport contract with the Trust. The initiative saw the two companies transport more than 400 pathology specimens between two medical facilities operated by the Foundation Trust.

The drone used for the trial was a 3kg (7lb) payload Swoop Aero Kookaburra III, a compound design using quad-mounted airscrews for vertical lift and a fixed-wing with drive airscrews for forward flight. This aircraft is frequently used by start ups on medical delivery missions and has many hours of successful flights logged to date. Skyports has a varied fleet of around 500 drones, mostly used for deliveries or inspections and with a range of sizes and capabilities.

People...People...

Airbus Helicopters has promoted **Romain Trapp** to Executive Vice-President of Customer Support and Services at the parent company in France. Trapp was previously president of Airbus Helicopters’ US subsidiary and head of the North American region. He had spent the last 15 years in North America, initially as Chief Financial Officer of Airbus Helicopters Inc (AHI), then as president of Airbus Helicopters Canada, before becoming the head of AHI. In his new role he is a member of the Airbus Helicopters Executive Committee and in charge of the company’s services business lines, technical support, spares, maintenance repair and overhaul, and training and connected services.

Trapp has been succeeded at AHI by **Bart Reijnen**, formerly Chief Executive Officer of Airbus-owned Satair and with previous experience within Airbus Defence and Space, leading the company as head at the Bremen site in Germany. In his new role he is responsible for AHI’s strategy in the US and Canadian markets and overseeing more than 1,100 employees.

NASA's Ingenuity Mars helicopter successfully completed its 54th flight on 3 August, the first since it was forced to land on 22 July 74 seconds into a scouting mission to collect imagery for the Perseverance Rover science team. A complex flight profile envisaged the helicopter flying north 203 metres (666ft) at an altitude of 5 metres (16ft), before descending vertically to 2.5 metres (8ft) to hover and obtain imagery of a rocky outcrop. The aim then was to climb vertically to 10 metres (33ft) before descending again to land.

Instead the aircraft executed only the first part of the mission, before a flight-contingency programme was triggered and Ingenuity automatically landed. Since then the NASA team on Earth have been working to restore its flight capability. The 54th flight was brief, lasting just 25 seconds as an up and down hop to provide data that could help the team determine why the previous flight ended early.

Advanced Tactics in Torrance, California has signed an **agreement with** the manufacturers of the former Rotorway A600 Turbo kit helicopter, the **RotorX Aircraft Manufacturing Company** in Chandler, Arizona to **develop** an upgraded **ATRX-700**

design that will meet upcoming FAA requirements in the light sports helicopter class. The new helicopter will retain the major A600 Turbo systems, including the 180hp turbocharged engine, rotor systems and structure but will have a larger and more spacious cockpit, larger fuel tanks and simplified fly-by-wire controls.

The ATRX-700 is provisionally priced at an introductory \$188,000 with production planned to begin in early 2025, although this is dependent on the FAA finalising the new light sports helicopter specifications. Meanwhile the company is estimating the minimum gross take off weight for the ATRX-700 at 771kg (1,700lb) including a 295kg (650lb) payload, a cruise speed of 161km/h (100mph), a service ceiling of 4,877m (16,000ft) and range of 483km (300 miles). The two partners will also collaborate to offer flight and maintenance training for the new helicopter, noting that the FAA Light Sport Helicopter pilot's licence requires only 30 hours flight training and no aviation medical certificate, only a driver's licence.

Founded in 2007, Advanced Tactics Inc has carried out various defence projects for the US military, including new fly-by-wire systems, and is currently engaged in two

ongoing US Air Force AFWRX contracts. One is developing a VTOL drone that can fly 483km (300 miles) and deliver 227kg (500lb) of cargo, and the other is a large pilot-optical VTOL aircraft with a stern ramp, that can deliver 1,134kg (2,500lb) of cargo or vehicles over a range of 483km (300 miles). RotorX would be a sub-contractor, building these AFWRX aircraft at Chandler.

Bell 47 G3B1 parting out for spares but could be rebuilt. 600 gear box. Main rotor blades 2500+hrs remaining. Tail blades with over 2400+hrs remaining. Around 200hrs since engine and gearbox last overhaul. Full ship available but it is partially stripped. UK based.
Contact Paul Smith
07711050938
paul@scarrend.co.uk







distributor of





Selective pre-owned aircraft

AW109SP GrandNew	2016	1,340 hours	Please enquire
Off market AW109S	2010	1,850 hours	Please enquire
R66 Turbine Marine	2018	388 hours	Please enquire
Overhauled R22 Beta	2005	Freshly overhauled	Please enquire

If you have a high-quality aircraft to sell – please contact us
Tel: +44 (0)1604 790595 **Email: sales@sloanehelicopters.com**

For more information on the above please visit our website
www.sloanehelicopters.com

Saving Lives. Anytime, Anywhere.



AW169

Leonardo Helicopters provide unique, integrated and affordable products to the global healthcare delivery system.

The AW169 is ideally suited to life-saving primary and secondary EMS missions anytime, anywhere. Easily adaptable, rapidly configurable and uniquely designed around patients' needs; the AW169 ensures that air medical professionals can provide the best care at the most critical moments.

Inspired by the vision, curiosity and creativity of the great master inventor - Leonardo is designing the technology of tomorrow.

leonardocompany.com

Helicopters | Aeronautics | Electronics, Defence & Security Systems | Space

 **LEONARDO**
HELICOPTERS

HELiDATA

23rd1 August 2023