



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS 12 NH90 HELICOPTERS

Aix-en-Provence, 2 June 2005

NHI Industries is very proud to announce a new success for the NH90: Australia signed on 2nd of June 2005 the Acquisition Contract for 12 NH90 helicopters. The contract has been signed in Canberra between the Australian Defence Materiel Organisation and Australian Aerospace, the local fully-owned subsidiary of Eurocopter. According to the Australian AIR9000 programme, the 12 NH90 ordered are identified under the designation "MRH90", standing for "Multi Role Helicopter".

Australian Aerospace Chief Executive, Joseph Saporito, said that this MRH90 contract will allow AA together with NHI to inject more than AUD 300 million into Australian industry, making full use of the expertise and local capabilities.

The twin-engine, medium lift MRH90 is the Australian version of the NH90 helicopter provided by the consortium NHI Industries (the Company owned by Agusta (32%), Eurocopter (62,5%), and Stork Fokker (5,5%)). The MRH90 is equipped with full glass cockpit, Fly-by-Wire control system and advanced automatic Flight Control System together with state-of-the-art Communication, Navigation and Mission Equipment, including also a full composite crashworthy fuselage fitted with a rear ramp for higher flexibility. It results in increased capability and much lower operating and maintenance costs compared to its competitors.

Australia is the 11th Nation (France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sultanate of Oman, Sweden and The Netherlands) ordering the NH90. This brings the total number of firm orders to 357, plus 86 options. In addition two other Nations (New Zealand and Spain) officially selected the NH90 helicopter.

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