



ITALIAN NAVY NH90 FIRST FLIGHT

Aix-en-Provence, 16 December 2005.

NHI Industries on behalf of AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, announces that the first Italian Navy serial production NH90 took to the air on Thursday the 15th of December at AgustaWestland's Vergiate facility in Italy. The flight started at 16.00, lasting 35 minutes.

In the frame of the NH90 Programme work-share, AgustaWestland is responsible of the overall integration of the NH90 naval mission system for all NH90 NFH variants.

The NH90 NFH variant is primarily designed for autonomous Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti Surface Warfare (ASuW) missions. Additional applications include vertical replenishment, maritime patrol, SAR and troop transport. The helicopter is designed for day & night/adverse weather/severe ship motion environment operations. Due to its weight and dimensions and particularly to the automatic blade and tail folding system, it can operate from/to small frigates.

The Italian Navy has ordered a total of 56 NH90s, ten of which will be configured for tactical transport and 46 for naval operations. Assembly of 150 NH90s is underway at AgustaWestland's Vergiate facility including naval NFH variant for Italian, the Netherlands and Norwegian Navies and TTH variant for Italian Army.

The NH90 back-log totals today 357 firm orders, 120 options and now more than 73 announced selections by 18 Armed Forces of 14 Countries overseas.

The NH90 is managed through NHI Industries, that is the prime contractor for the NH90 Helicopter Programme, launched by France, Italy, Germany and The Netherlands and joined by Portugal.

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