

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE RECEIVES ITS FIRST MRH90

Aix en Provence, 18 th December 2007

NHIndustries is proud to announce that the Commonwealth of Australia took delivery of its first two **MRH90** Multi Role helicopters.

These helicopters which have been officially delivered today by Australian Aerospace to the Defence Materiel Organization (DMO) have been assembled in Marignane (France) by Eurocopter and delivered last month to Australian Aerospace (Brisbane). They will be followed by a second batch of two **MRH90** assembled in France while the remaining 42 helicopters purchased by Australia will be produced and delivered by Australian Aerospace in the Brisbane facility.

“This delivery on time of the first batch of two **MRH 90** is another great achievement in this programme and the result of a flawless cooperation between the Australian Authorities and Industry, this last party encompassing Australian Aerospace, NHIndustries and its Partner Companies to provide the Australian Defence Forces with the most advanced helicopter of its generation” declared Mrs Gala Gonçalves the NHIndustries General Manager.

The **MRH 90** is the Australian variant of the **NH90** helicopter intended to modernize the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This new generation helicopter of 10 Ton class will provide multi-role troop lift capability in all environments by day and night. The **MRH90** is capable of carrying 2 pilots, 20 fully equipped combat troops up to 900 km at speeds of up to 300 km/h. Its flexibility allows its users to perform additional missions such as internal/external load transport, Heliborne operations, Search and Rescue, Casualties evacuation and Training missions.

The **NH90** is the most modern helicopter of its class. It features a high level of system integration, full glass cockpit with Multifunction Displays, Fly-by-Wire controls with 4-axis Automatic Flight Control. Its composite fuselage meets the most stringent crash-worthiness standards. The **MRH90** helicopter has provision for a number of role equipment to enable mission flexibility and effectiveness coupled with a high level of safety and survivability.

The twin-engine, medium-size **NH90** helicopter program is managed by the consortium **NHIndustries**, the Company owned by AgustaWestland (32%), Eurocopter (62.5%), and Stork Fokker (5.5%).

The **NH90** helicopter programme is the largest ever launched in Europe, with firm orders now reaching **507** units for **19** Armed Forces of **14** Nations: France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Greece, Oman, Australia, New-Zealand, Spain and Belgium.

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