

## **Leonardo: AW139 success continues in UK with the sale of two helicopters for VIP/corporate transport**

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- **One aircraft will be managed & operated by Starspeed and the second aircraft by an undisclosed customer**
- **Aircraft will be delivered with customised VIP cabin interiors in 2018.**
- **Over 30 AW139s are currently operating in the UK with around 900 aircraft in service worldwide.**

**London, 4 October 2017** – Leonardo announced today the sale of a further two AW139 intermediate twin-engine helicopters to customers in the UK for corporate/VIP passenger transport, further strengthening its leadership in this market segment with a 50% share in the multiengine segment. Over 30 AW139s are currently operating in the UK

One aircraft will be managed & operated by Fair Oaks Airport-based Starspeed, part of Luxaviation Helicopters – the world's largest operator of VIP and VVIP helicopters. Starspeed already operates the AW169, part of the unique AW Family of helicopters that includes the AW139 and AW189. The other aircraft will be used by an undisclosed UK-based customer for corporate transport. Both aircraft will be delivered in the first half of 2018.

Gary Butcher, Commercial Director, Starspeed says: "We are delighted to be adding the first AW139 to Starspeed's existing fleet of 24 helicopters. Our client specifically selected the AW139 for its performance, ride quality and, importantly, its cabin space that is unsurpassed in helicopters within this category. We are looking forward to the delivery of this bespoke aircraft to our managed UK-based charter fleet in early 2018."

Charlotte Pedersen, Chief Executive Officer, Luxaviation Helicopters, says: "This AW139 will be a great addition to our global fleet of more than 270 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. Starspeed supports our offering to clients of a truly integrated portfolio of helicopter and jet aviation services from the Luxaviation Group. The continued growth of our fleet allows us to offer our customers the most efficient and safe flights alongside exclusive VIP charter services."

The AW139 surpasses all other intermediate twin-engine helicopters in terms of performance, cruise speed (165 knots / 306 kph), safety and comfort – essential qualities for private and executive transport missions. The AW139 features the largest unobstructed cabin in its class, accommodating passengers in a comfortable and quiet environment.

With decades of experience crafting personalized interiors, Leonardo Helicopters offers a dedicated professional design team that works with each customer to make sure that their cabin furnishings and materials exceed their expectations. There are many seating and trim options

available as well as choices of telecommunications & entertainment systems, refreshments and stowage spaces, cabin lighting and air conditioning.

**Note to editors:**

**About the AW139 helicopter**

The AW139 sets new standards as a result of its advanced technology, high performance, reliability, safety, role flexibility and cabin space. Its modern avionics reduce crew workload allowing the pilot to focus on the mission. Over 250 customers from around 70 nations have already ordered nearly 1,000 AW139s, around 900 of which are in service, confirming itself as the bestselling aircraft in its category. The AW139 is able to perform a wide range of roles including corporate/VIP & offshore transport, EMS, SAR and law enforcement.

**About Luxaviation Group**

Luxaviation is one of the largest private aviation operators worldwide, currently managing more than 270 aircraft under the most stringent safety standards. The company's commercial fleet is operated under the regulatory umbrella of 14 regional civil aviation issued air-operating certificates (AOCs). Luxaviation manages 25 world-class FBO facilities and 15 maintenance centres worldwide, certified to work on most business jets. Luxaviation currently employs more than 1,700 employees worldwide. Further information: [www.luxaviation.com](http://www.luxaviation.com).

**About Starspeed**

Starspeed is one of the oldest and most trusted corporate and VIP helicopter management, charter and training companies in Europe. It has been delivering a unique blend of aviation expertise for close to 40 years. Starspeed's fleet is made up of 20 helicopters under management plus four additional helicopters available for training and charter. Starspeed provides fast, efficient business flights throughout Europe, exclusive VIP charter services, instrument rating and conversion training for qualified pilots wishing to extend their skills. Starspeed stands for safety, security and professionalism and its discreet, enthusiastic, friendly company culture is focused upon the needs of its clients. In 2017, Starspeed was acquired by Luxaviation Helicopters and is part of the Luxaviation Group. Further information: [www.starspeed.co.uk](http://www.starspeed.co.uk).

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