

## **Leonardo: AW169 to support Chinese Polar Scientific Exploration Missions**

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- **The Polar Research Institute of China ordered an AW169 helicopter with delivery in early 2019**
- **The aircraft will be performing passenger transport, iceberg sighting, and cargo sling missions in the extreme environments of the Arctic and Antarctic Regions**
- **Almost 200 helicopters of Leonardo sold to Chinese customers to date**

**Rome, 3 October 2017** – Leonardo announced today that the Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC) has purchased an AgustaWestland AW169 light intermediate helicopter. The aircraft, which is planned to be delivered in early 2019, will be provided with a dedicated configuration to support Chinese Polar Scientific Exploration Tasks and perform a range of roles including passenger transport, iceberg sighting, and cargo sling operations.

The contract was signed in the framework of the PRIC's New Ice Breaker Ship-borne Helicopter Acquisition. The AW169 will be carrying out missions from the new ice breaker and close to the Chinese Polar Stations in the South and North Poles.

The AW169 was selected thanks to its outstanding performance in demanding environmental conditions and state-of-the-art technologies such as touch-screen display, APU mode and Adaptive Variable Speed Rotor. This latest order marks a further success in the global market for the type providing further evidence of its design versatility. The presence of Leonardo in China grows stronger with almost 200 helicopters sold to Chinese customers to date for commercial and public services. The growing fleet is supported by an increased customer support presence, recently enhanced by the opening of a major warehouse facility in Shanghai.

### **Note to editors on the AW169 helicopter**

A versatile, new generation twin engine light intermediate category helicopter, the 4.6/4.8 tonne AW169 has been designed in response to the growing market demand for an aircraft that delivers high performance, meets all the latest safety standards and has multi-role capabilities. Orders for more than 160 AW169 helicopters have been signed by over 60 customers in 20 countries around the world to date for a wide range of applications including air ambulance, law enforcement, executive/corporate transport, offshore transport, electronic newsgathering and utility roles.