
PRESS RELEASE

Leonardo signs new Agreement to supply AW609 tiltrotors for passenger and utility transport missions to European operator

Long-established Leonardo helicopter operator to use four AW609s for VIP/corporate and utility tasks supporting its point-to-point operations worldwide

With its unique combination of turboprop-like performance and helicopter-like versatility, the AW609 will provide a unique contribution to revolutionize air mobility and operations for a range of tasks including passenger transport, rescue and patrol among others

Rome, 08/03/2022 – The AW609 tiltrotor sets another major milestone further expanding its future user base with the addition of an undisclosed, long-established European operator of Leonardo helicopters. Under the signed agreement, this operator aims at introducing four AW609s to carry out a range of passenger transport missions supporting its point-to-point operations worldwide. For this purpose, the tiltrotors will have different dedicated configurations including VIP/Corporate and Passenger/Utility transport.

Gian Piero Cutillo, Leonardo Helicopters MD, said “With the distinguished characteristics of the AW609, combining turboprop-like performance (speed, range, altitude) and rotorcraft versatility (vertical take-off / landing and hovering) in all-weather conditions and with its limited infrastructural impact thanks to its helicopter-like footprint; the new operator will deliver outstanding services in its markets. Generally, we’re convinced, more than ever, that the AW609 will truly revolutionize point-to-point connections and other air operations, providing a major contribution as the use of air space evolves further.”

This latest result in Europe comes after the first appearance of the AW609 in the Middle East with its official presentation in Dubai in late 2021, which marked the global commercial launch of the revolutionary multirole aircraft as it gets closer to the world’s first civil certification for a tiltrotor. The AW609 will also contribute to maintain Leonardo’s leadership in the VIP multiengine rotorcraft market, which has accounted for a 45% global share in value over the last ten years, and will be part of the range of VIP solutions offered under the recently launched Agusta brand which embodies the company’s distinctive design, technology and service philosophy and values in the executive transport sphere.

The AW609 excels at providing fast point-to-point transportation at long ranges, whether it is connecting city centres or providing timely access to remote locations, hosting up to nine passengers in the comfort of a pressurized cabin and it is therefore poised to transform not only private and business travel, but also emergency medical service (EMS), search and rescue (SAR), offshore operations and patrol, among other tasks and with both private and government users.

The first production AW609 has recently started ground testing in Philadelphia while the second one is currently being assembled at the same Leonardo facility in USA. The programme development has logged in excess of 1700 flight hours in USA and Italy to date. Users will be provided with comprehensive support and training packages primarily headquartered at the Company’s new Training Academy in Philadelphia, opened in 2021, also including the world’s first AW609 Full Flight Simulator.

The continuous development of cutting-edge solutions across all domains, including fast rotorcraft and modern air mobility, is a key element of Leonardo’s BeTomorrow2030 Strategic Plan.

Leonardo, a global high-technology company, is among the top world players in Aerospace, Defense and Security and Italy's main industrial company. Organized into five business divisions, Leonardo has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the USA, where it also operates through subsidiaries that include Leonardo DRS (defense electronics), and joint ventures and partnerships: ATR, MBDA, Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space and Avio. Leonardo competes in the most important international markets by leveraging its areas of technological and product leadership (Helicopters, Aircraft, Aerostructures, Electronics, Cyber Security and Space). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2020 Leonardo recorded consolidated revenues of €13.4 billion and invested €1.6 billion in Research and Development. The company has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010 and has been confirmed among the global sustainability leaders in 2021. Leonardo is also included in the MIB ESG index.

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