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## Airbus Helicopters delivers three TH-135 training helicopters to Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

Tokyo, 5 December 2014 – Airbus Helicopters Japan has successfully handed over three TH-135 training helicopters to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The three aircraft delivered between October and December are the JMSDF's 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> units.

The TH-135 is a variant of Airbus Helicopters' light twin-engine EC135 T2+ which has been customized for JMSDF. Meant to replace their single-engine training helicopter fleet, deliveries of the TH-135 began in 2009 and have been in operation since 2011.

"The on-time delivery of all 13 TH-135 helicopters so far has been a great achievement," said Stephane Ginoux, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters Japan. "We are also providing our full support for the maintenance and operation of the fleet, including prompt delivery of spare parts and technical support, to ensure the safe and efficient training of JMSDF pilots."

Tailored for advanced training missions, the EC135 is well adapted for air crew of defense forces operating new-generation multi-role or combat helicopters. Japan was one of the first countries in Asia to acquire the TH-135 variant for its training, with Australia being the latest to join the increasing number of countries around the world to adopt this helicopter type for their training systems.

A total of nearly 1,200 EC135s have been delivered worldwide for a variety of missions ranging from pilot training and law enforcement to emergency medical services and search and rescue. The high operation rate and ease of maintenance contributing to its low life-cycle cost has made the EC135 a popular aircraft in Japan, where about 80 of such helicopter types are operating in the country today in multiple missions.

### **About Airbus Helicopters Japan**

Airbus Helicopters Japan, formerly Eurocopter Japan, was established in 2009 as the Japanese customer center of Airbus Helicopters, a division of Airbus Group. It is the first foreign affiliated aircraft manufacturer to carry out direct sales, training, and customer support activities in the Japanese aeronautical sector. There are approximately 290 employees allocated at four locations, including Tokyo and Kobe. With more than 50 years of in-country presence, Airbus Helicopters Japan confirms its leadership position with a 54 percent market share overall in Japan (civil and parapublic sectors). Airbus Helicopters Japan makes Japan's sky safer, more reliable and cost-efficient by providing high quality products and services.

### **About Airbus Helicopters**

Airbus Helicopters, formerly Eurocopter, is a division of Airbus Group, a global pioneer in aerospace and defense related services. Airbus Helicopters is the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer and employs more than 23,000 people worldwide. With 46 percent market share in civil and parapublic sectors, the company's fleet in service includes some 12,000 helicopters operated by more than 3,000 customers in approximately 150 countries. Airbus Helicopters' international presence is marked by its customer centers and participations in 21

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countries, and its worldwide network of service centers, training facilities, distributors and certified agents. Airbus Helicopters' range of civil and military helicopters is the world's largest; its aircraft account for one third of the worldwide civil and parapublic fleet. The company's chief priority is to ensure the safe operation of its aircraft for the thousands of people who fly more than 3 million hours per year.

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