

Eurocopter strengthens its Colombian market presence with Helistar's order for three more EC145 helicopters

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Colombian operator Helistar has signed a contract with Eurocopter de México, subsidiary of Eurocopter Group, to purchase three EC145s.

With these three new helicopters, the fleet of Colombia's largest helicopter company will expand to include seven EC145s. The first two additional aircraft will be delivered in 2012, followed by the third in 2013. Helistar currently has a fleet of 18 aircraft, providing services for the country's leading energy companies.

Among the broad spectrum of missions offered by the company, Helistar specializes in passenger transport for the oil and gas sector – which currently is experiencing strong growth within Colombia. This new purchase follows the finalization of a five-year services contract between Helistar and the Colombian oil company Ecopetrol.

The EC145 is at the top of its class in the medium-sized, twin-engine helicopter category, and is perfectly adapted to the needs of the oil and gas industry. This compact and modern helicopter is ideal for medium-range flights with 8 to 10 passengers. Its high safety standards, availability, comfort and rapid configuration for different missions have earned the business of many oil and gas companies opting to acquire this aircraft in various countries in the Americas, including Argentina, Mexico and Colombia.

More than 400 EC145s have been sold around the globe for a full range of operations, and is the only helicopter of its type that can seat up to eight passengers.

About Eurocopter

Established in 1992, the Franco-German-Spanish Eurocopter Group is a division of EADS, a world leader in aerospace, defense and related services. The Eurocopter Group employs approximately 17,500 people. In 2010, Eurocopter confirmed its position as the world's number one helicopter manufacturer in the civil and parapublic market with a turnover of 4.8 billion Euros, orders for 346 new helicopters and a 49 percent market share in the civil and parapublic sectors. Overall, the Group's helicopters account for 33 percent of the total worldwide civil and parapublic fleet. Eurocopter's strong worldwide presence is ensured by its 30 subsidiaries and participations on five continents, along with a dense network of distributors, certified agents and maintenance centers. There are currently 11,200 Eurocopter helicopters in service and some 2,900 customers in 147 countries. Eurocopter offers the largest civil and military helicopter range in the world.

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