



# LCI ACQUIRES AND LEASES SEVEN NEW LEONARDO AW169 HELICOPTERS TO BABCOCK CANADA

News / Business aviation, Finance, Manufacturer



**LCI has purchased a fleet of seven, new emergency medical services configured Leonardo AW169 helicopters. The helicopters are being placed in LCI's joint venture with SMFL: SMFL LCI Helicopters Limited. The joint venture has acquired the aircraft and will be leasing them to Babcock Canada. Babcock has been subcontracted by Ascent Helicopters, who will be providing EMS operations across the province on behalf of British Columbia Emergency Health Services.**

The first helicopter has now been handed over, with the remaining six set to be delivered by January 2025. This agreement marks Ascent Helicopters as the first operator to bring the AW169 to Canada. The highly capable AW169s will be specially equipped with night vision goggles and state of the art medical interiors completed by HeliMods in British Columbia. These modifications will enable the helicopters to meet the most mission critical operational requirements in British Columbia. BCEHS carries out medical emergency evacuations and patient transfers between healthcare facilities, responding to calls from over 7,800 patients a year.

Nigel Leishman, Chief Commercial Officer of LCI, commented: “LCI is honoured to support the important roles that Ascent and Babcock are playing in the expansion of vital EMS operations in British Columbia. This development in our longstanding partnership with Babcock demonstrates how LCI can deliver tailored financing solutions for highly specialised, mission critical assets such as emergency medical service helicopters, giving maximum flexibility and support to our customers in providing essential operations.”

Jerry McLean, CEO of Babcock Canada, said: “Babcock Canada is delighted to work with LCI as we expand our aviation footprint into Western Canada. The Leonardo AW169 is a modern, reliable, and mission-ready aircraft that will significantly enhance the critical services Ascent Helicopters will provide to the citizens of British Columbia.”

LCI is a longstanding leasing partner to the Babcock International Group, currently providing 17 helicopters for a wide variety of operational roles in markets across the globe. Each of these helicopters will support local communities and align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Good health and well-being (SDG3), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9) and Sustainable cities and communities (SDG11). Over half of LCI’s fleet is deployed on EMS operations.

LCI is a signatory of Aircraft Leasing Ireland’s (ALI) Sustainability Charter, with a commitment to driving forward and achieving ESG related goals, centred around 10 priority sustainability principles, including a commitment to achieving net zero by 2050.

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