



ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE BECOMES LAUNCH CUSTOMER FOR PC-7 MKX TRAINING SYSTEM

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Koninklijke Luchtmacht becomes the first customer to opt for the PC-7 MKX. This new training system will provide the Dutch Air Force with an integrated, cost-effective, state-of-the-art solution to meet its needs for basic flying training of its military pilots. The corresponding contract was signed – delivery is planned for the first half of 2027. Under a public invitation to tender, issued by the Dutch Procurement Authority, “Material & IT Command”, Pilatus was selected to deliver eight PC-7 MKXs and associated ground-based training systems, including four simulators.

The purchase demonstrates that the Dutch Ministry of Defense is confident that the state-of-the-art PC-7 MKX training system will allow future crews to acquire essential flying skills while preparing for the advanced training phases. The flight simulators will play a larger role, ensuring that fewer aircraft are required, underlining the cost-effectiveness of the new, fully integrated training system by Pilatus.

This comprehensive package includes advanced VR-based components, significantly enhancing immersion and engagement for both student pilots and instructors. The new solution incorporates

interactive wallboards and virtual reality modules alongside conventional training tools, creating a more hands-on instructional environment and further elevating the basic pilot training experience.

A central component is Pilatus' advanced Training Management System, featuring Mission Planning and Mission Debriefing tools. While these capabilities have traditionally been introduced only in the advanced stages of flight instruction, they are now being deployed earlier in training. By giving student pilots and instructors access to operational insights and performance analytics, the PC-7 MKX solution enhances situational awareness and accelerates learning, smoothing the transition into more complex aircraft and mission profiles.

The Dutch Ministry of Defence stated: "We have had a long and good relationship with Pilatus. With the contract signing for a state-of-the-art learning environment we are extending this partnership for another 30 years."

Markus Bucher, CEO of Pilatus, commented: "We're delighted to announce this contract for our new PC-7 MKX training system and we thank Holland for its decision! This marks the beginning of a new era of basic flight training in the Netherlands, which – I am sure – will set a new standard that other air forces will seek to follow."

Ioannis Papachristofilou, Vice President Government Aviation at Pilatus, said: "This contract will see us bring our brand-new PC-7 MKX into service together with a comprehensive suite of training aids designed and developed by Pilatus to ensure seamless integration of the training system. We look forward to working closely with the Koninklijke Luchtmacht and are honored by their longstanding confidence in Pilatus."

Pilatus enjoys a long-and well-established relationship with the Royal Netherlands Air Force, which began with the acquisition of Pilatus PC-7 trainers in 1988. Based on the successful PC-7 MkII, the new PC-7 MKX training system will replace the aging PC-7 "Turbo-Trainer" fleet and will also be based in Woensdrecht, in the south of the Netherlands.



PC-7 MKX Basic Trainer

A state-of-the-art cockpit with a complete array of ground-based training tools is at the heart of the brand-new PC-7 MKX Training System. The cockpit is centered on a three-display philosophy using the latest generation of high-definition screens. These systems give students an easy entry into the world of modern avionics while simultaneously training vital flying skills in an aircraft with outstanding but forgiving flying characteristics, making it the ideal "basic trainer."

The Netherlands is the first country to opt for the new PC-7 MKX, and Pilatus is currently involved in additional tenders related to Pilatus' new basic trainer.

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