BELL 505 JET RANGER X MAKES POLISH DEBUT

News / Manufacturer

Bell Helicopter has continued its sales push for the developmental **505 Jet Ranger X**, displaying a mock-up of the light single-engined rotorcraft at the MSPO defence show held in Kielce, Poland between 1-4 September.

Bell says it exhibited the four-seat, civil rotorcraft at a military exhibition "to promote its capabilities as a training platform" for the region's air forces.

The mock-up was also displayed to **Polish** civilian operators this week at a private facility near Warsaw owned by Bell's distributor for the country, JB Investments.

Poland is regarded by the airframer as a potentially lucrative market for the multi-mission aircraft, which is earmarked for service entry next year.

To date Bell has amassed over 350 tentative orders for the Garmin G1000H-equipped, Turbomeca Arrius 2R-powered 505. These include more than 55 letters of intent from European customers, says Bell.

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Bell Helicopter

“We believe the 505 will do well in Poland," says Jan Borowski, owner of JB Investments. "It is priced to compete and delivers true multi-mission capability with exceptional performance.”

With a price tag of around $1 million, the 505 is pitched against the Robinson Helicopter R66.

Bell is now reaching the final stages of the Jet Ranger X's flight-test programme and remains on track for year-end certification.

As of early September, the first prototype, FTV1, had notched up more 250h since entering service in November 2014. It completed hot temperature and high altitude testing a month ahead of schedule, says Bell, and will wrap up certification testing early in the fourth quarter following a 100h endurance ground run.

FTV2, meanwhile, has clocked up around 60h of load, fatigue and cold weather testing since entering the certification programme in February.

The final flight-test aircraft, FTV3 – which performed its maiden sortie in July – has been testing the 505's noise and handling qualities. This aircraft will later be used for function and reliability testing. It has so far accumulated around 20h.

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