



BELL ANNOUNCED FIRST FLIGHT OF ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE CH-146C MK II GRIFFON HELICOPTER

News / Manufacturer



Bell Textron Canada announced successful first flight of one of the Royal Canadian Air Force’s modernized CH-146 Griffon helicopters, a variant of the Bell 412EP, under the Griffon Limited Life Extension project. Under GLE, Bell will provide aircraft modifications to a series of the fleet’s aeronautical components, including its avionics systems, cockpit displays, engines, and sensor systems. This news comes nearly five months after Bell was awarded the In-Service Support (ISS) contract that is positioned to sustain the Force’s fleet through 2039.

Danny Maldonado, chief commercial officer, Bell commented: “The Bell 412 remains a venerable aircraft of choice for militaries across the world, with the Royal Canadian Air Force operating the largest and best equipped militarized fleet of 412s. Bell is honored to continue our relationship with the Royal Canadian Air Force as they expand their mission capabilities with next generation technologies.”

Michael Nault, General Manager, Bell Textron Canada said: “As Canada’s only helicopter

manufacturer in-country, Bell is a proud partner of the Canadian Armed Forces. Our facility's local presence provides us with the ability to work closely with the Canadian government, as well as other local customers to address their aircraft needs. The GLE program will help ensure that the Royal Canadian Air Force is equipped with cutting-edge defense technologies for years to come."

Royal Canadian Air Force utilizes their fleet of CH-146 Griffons for a multitude of missions, from the provision of world-wide humanitarian relief in support to the United Nations to the provision of Reassurance measures under NATO. The fleet is also extensively employed in Canada for the provision of Search and Rescue services and support to first responders. The first upgraded CH-146 Griffon completed under the GLE project is expected to be delivered to the Canadian government in 2026 pending military certification.



Founded in 1986 and based in Mirabel, Quebec, Bell Textron Canada Ltd. (BTCL) is focused on delivering an exceptional customer experience and superior service and support for customers around the globe. Represented by more than 1,500 employees and 550 suppliers based from coast to coast to coast, BTCL has built and delivered nearly 6,000 aircraft, with 1,000 provided to Canadian operators. Bell's Canadian Supply Centre located in Calgary sustains the fleets of local operators including the Canadian Armed Forces, Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard.

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