LEONARDO STARTS DELIVERY OF 16 AW101 NORWEGIAN ALL-WEATHER SAR HELICOPTERS

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer

- **First of 16 AW101 helicopters delivered to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice & Public Security for its All-Weather Search and Rescue Helicopter programme**
- **The AW101s will be operated by the Royal Norwegian Air Force and replace the Sea King helicopters currently in service**
- **The Leonardo AW101 is the most advanced SAR helicopter available today – capable of performing long range SAR missions – with over 220 units ordered worldwide**
- **Leonardo is providing a complete "turnkey" support solution comprising spares, technical support and training services**

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Leonardo starts delivery of 16 AW101 Norwegian all-weather SAR helicopters

Leonardo is pleased to announce that the **first of 16 AW101 all-weather search and rescue** helicopters has been **delivered** to the **Norwegian Ministry of Justice & Public Security**. The aircraft departed **Leonardo**'s Yeovil facility on November 17th for Sola Air Base in southern

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Norway where the aircraft will enter a period of Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E) before **entering service with the Royal Norwegian Air Force** in **2018**. Aircraft deliveries will continue through to 2020 with SAR operations being established with the aircraft deployed across each of the six main operating bases.

Bjørn Ivar Aarseth NAWSARH Project Manager, Ministry of Justice & Public Security said: "The **delivery** of the first aircraft **marks a major milestone** for the Norwegian All-Weather Search and Rescue Helicopter programme and everyone is delighted to see the first **AW101** in Norway. I would like to congratulate my team in the Ministry of Justice, key contributors within the Norwegian Defence sector, **Leonardo** and all other industry partners on achieving this milestone."

Jon Clark, Leonardo's Programme Manager said: "The **AW101** we have developed for Norway is undoubtedly the world's most capable SAR helicopter and it is with great pride that we have delivered the first aircraft that will serve the people of Norway for decades to come. This contract is very much a long term partnership, consisting of industry, the Ministry of Justice & Public Security, the Royal Norwegian Air Force and the Norwegian Defence Materiel Agency, which has a common goal to deliver a SAR service second to none - we are all looking forward to the aircraft entering operational service in 2018."

The **AW101** benefits from **three-engine safety**, a **full ice protection system** for flight in known icing conditions, **long range and endurance**, a **proven 30 minute "run dry" gearbox** as well as **multiple redundancy** features in the **avionic and mission systems**. The large cabin doors and rear ramp provide easy access for personnel, survivors and equipment into the 27 m3 cabin which has stand-up head room throughout.

The aircraft is equipped with an a**dvanced SAR equipment package** including a multi-panel **Osprey AESA surveillance radar** system from **Leonardo** that provides 360° coverage, 4-axis digital Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS), two rescue hoists, searchlight, electro optical device and a fully integrated avionics and mission system. Other systems and equipment include a mobile telephone detection system, obstacle proximity warning system, weather radar, complete medical station and mission console.

Leonardo is providing **initial support and training services**, including spares at each of the operating bases and has recently completed the aircrew training for the initial group of aircrew. It will then provide performance based logistic support to **deliver approximately 90,000 flying hours** across the fleet of 16 helicopters over the initial 15 year period.

Leonardo has partnered with Norwegian companies AIM Aviation to provide maintenance services at the Royal Norwegian Air Force's six operating bases and with Kongsberg Defence Systems to provide helicopter transmission repair and overhaul services in Norway.

An **AW101 full flight simulator** was commissioned **in June 2017** at **Sola Airport** to provide in country training for aircrew in advance of aircraft deliveries and will be used by Norwegian aircrew and third parties to provide training that will both reduce training costs and improve safety by allowing crews to practice the full range of emergency procedures.

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