THALES INTRODUCES NEW SEARCH & LANDING LIGHT TO MAXIMISE VISIBILITY IN CRITICAL HELICOPTER MISSIONS

News / Manufacturer



Thales introduces its new generation Search & Landing Light, one of the most advanced, reliable and versatile helicopter illumination systems available today. Combining native 360° swivelling coverage, a compact flush-mounted design and a software-defined, connected architecture, the new high-power SLL delivers unrestricted illumination and mission-tailored functionality for a wide range of helicopters, across the full spectrum of military, security, search-and-rescue and civil aviation operations. Seamlessly connected to onboard systems such as Forward-Looking Infrared, helmet-mounted displays and multifunction displays, it enhances situational awareness, streamlines crew coordination and supports faster, more confident decision-making in demanding environments.

Search and Rescue

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?In complex night-time search-and-rescue missions – whether across mountain ranges, forests or snow-covered terrain - the SLL enables rapid area scanning and precise survivor detection. One or multiple lights can be controlled by the pilot, co-pilot or hoist operator, ensuring full coordination throughout the mission. Its 360° coverage allows crews to continuously illuminate survivors, rescue teams and landing zones without repositioning the aircraft, accelerating rescue operations in challenging conditions.

During rescue, medical evacuation or maritime recovery missions, the SLL provides precise, stable illumination of the hoist area. Independent control by the winch operator allows lighting to follow the rescue operation in real time, improving visibility and enhancing the safety and efficiency of hoisting operations, particularly in degraded visual environments.

Night tactical operations

?In military environments, the SLL enhances mission effectiveness during infiltration, exfiltration, and special operations missions. The system's covert operating modes, featuring extremely low infrared detectability, help reduce the aircraft's visual and infrared signature while maintaining the illumination capabilities required for mission success. This allows crews to maintain tactical awareness and operate more discreetly in contested environments.

Thales is responsible for the design of the complete optical assembly for the high-power LED-based lighting subsystem, as well as the integration, assembly, and testing of the complete system at its facilities in Dourdan, France.

Nicolas Bonleux, Vice President, Aerospace Communications, Thales commented: "Helicopter crews operate in some of the most demanding environments, often making critical decisions in seconds and under extremely challenging conditions. Our new Search & Landing Light was developed with those operators in mind, giving them greater flexibility, enhanced mission effectiveness and the ability to adapt to a wide range of operational scenarios from a single system. It illustrates our commitment to delivering solutions that evolve with our customers' missions."

03 JULY 2026

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