UK NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE ORDERS TWO ADDITIONAL AIRBUS H135S

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UK National Police Air Service (NPAS) has placed an order for an additional two H135 helicopters, bringing the total fleet renewal programme to nine H135s. The firm order, which follows the arrival of the first two fleet renewal aircraft at Airbus Helicopters in the UK in April for extensive policing customisation, comes under the original 2025 Framework Contract signed with the BlueLight Commercial procurement agency, which confirms Airbus as the exclusive supplier of helicopters for NPAS for up to six years.

Chief Superintendent Fiona Gaffney, NPAS Accountable Manager commented: “These aircraft will provide a modern, resilient and effective capability for policing, supporting our crews as they respond to incidents, assist officers on the ground and protect the public. Programmes of this scale are only possible through the dedication and professionalism of many people working behind the scenes. I would like to thank colleagues across NPAS, Airbus and BlueLight Commercial, whose expertise and commitment have helped bring us to this important point. Together with our partners, we are building a fleet that will serve policing and the public for many years to come, ensuring NPAS remains ready to meet the evolving demands of operational policing."

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Richard Atack, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters in the UK stated: “Building on decades of UK design and customisation expertise, Airbus Helicopters in the UK will play a key role in helping to bring the UK’s police helicopter fleet to a best-in-class standard, equipped with the latest security and policing technology.”

NPAS currently operates 16 H135 and four H145 helicopters from 14 locations on behalf of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. Airbus Helicopters in the UK additionally provides maintenance and support for the NPAS fleet which includes the most intensively used police helicopters in the world.

The new helicopters, which will arrive at Airbus’ Oxford site in 2028 ahead of their completion to NPAS’ configuration, will be equipped with Airbus’ Helionix avionics system, new to NPAS pilots who are already conducting training and familiarisation flights with the system which enhances safety and operational effectiveness by markedly reducing pilot workload.

More than 1,470 H135s are in service worldwide and have exceeded 8 million hours with over 325 customers.

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