

Eurocopter Romania marks its 10th anniversary with completion of the First UK Royal Air Force's Puma Mk2 helicopter upgraded by EC Romania

Brasov, Romania, September 24, 2012

Eurocopter Romania has become a world-leading MRO (maintenance repair and overhaul) service provider during its first decade of operations, and the company celebrated its 10-year anniversary this month with the maiden flight of a Royal Air Force Puma helicopter which is the first one upgraded at its Brasov facility for the UK Ministry of Defence.

Established in 2002 with the goal of further developing the Romanian helicopter industry, Eurocopter Romania has significantly expanded its capabilities –doubling the company's turnover every year.

In addition to the distribution of new Eurocopter helicopters to customers in Romania and neighboring countries a significant MRO activity has been developed. The export activity represents 80 percent of the total MRO activity today. Eurocopter Romania achieved a turnover of 26 million euros in 2011, with a staff totaling 190 people.

More than 120 Eurocopter helicopters – including Pumas, Super Pumas, Dauphins and EC135s – have been overhauled for worldwide operators in the subsidiary's 4,500-square meter facility at Brasov, while Eurocopter Romania also has delivered over 25 new and previously-owned helicopters.

In 2011 Eurocopter Romania signed a contract with the Romanian Ministry of Health for the supplying of 6 EC 135 helicopters for medical evacuation missions. Two of them have been already delivered.

One of Eurocopter Romania's current major tasks is the upgrade of 20 Eurocopter Puma helicopters to the modernized Puma Mk2 version for the UK Ministry of Defence, with major performance and safety improvements that include new Makila 1A1 turboshaft engines; the integration of a full glass cockpit incorporating modern avionics and a flight management system; the implementation of a digital automatic flight control system; as well as the incorporation of a secure communications suite, new defensive aids and ballistic protection for crew and passengers.

Eurocopter has indeed a contract to upgrade 24 Pumas for the UK Ministry of Defence, of which 20 will be handled by Eurocopter Romania. The first of these rotorcraft processed at Eurocopter Romania's Brasov facility completed its initial flight last week, and is now undergoing flight testing before delivery in the coming weeks.

"In the first 10 years of existence, our Romanian operation has regularly demonstrated its ability to provide high-quality work and on-time deliveries, all while meeting the most demanding requirements of Eurocopter customers worldwide," said Jean-Louis Mascle, the CEO of Eurocopter Romania. "Marking our 10th anniversary with the Royal Air Force Puma Mk2's maiden flight milestone, as far as the first helicopter upgraded by Eurocopter Romania is concerned".



The enhanced Puma Mk2 helicopters will represent a key element of the UK's medium battlefield support helicopter capability, deployed for tactical troop and load movement by day and night. This upgrade is to extend the operational lifetime and significantly upgrade the capabilities of Royal Air Force's Puma helicopter fleet, serving as an ideal medium lift platform for urban operations and available for rapid deployment by C17 airlifters for fast-moving contingent combat and humanitarian operations.

About Eurocopter Romania

The S.C. Eurocopter Romania SA subsidiary of Eurocopter SAS was officially created in 2002. Located in Brasov, the company has developed activities related to the civil, parapublic and military markets. Eurocopter Romania markets and sells the full range of new Eurocopter helicopters in Romania and neighboring countries, and offers close-proximity technical support to customers. It also is a key industrial center within the Eurocopter Group for repair, overhaul and upgrades of Puma and Super Puma helicopters on the worldwide market. Since the creation of the subsidiary, more than 120 helicopters from around the world have been worked on in its facilities. Eurocopter Romania has seen a steady development over the past 10 years, maintaining a growing trend in its turnover that reached 26.3 million euros in 2011.

Website: www.eurocopterromania.ro

About Eurocopter

Established in 1992, the Franco-German-Spanish Eurocopter Group is a division of EADS, a world leader in aerospace and defense-related services. The Eurocopter Group employs approximately 20,000 people.

In 2011, Eurocopter confirmed its position as the world's number one helicopter manufacturer with a turnover of 5.4 billion Euros, orders for 457 new helicopters and a 43 percent market share in the civil and parapublic sectors.

Overall, the Group's helicopters account for 33 percent of the worldwide civil and parapublic fleet. Eurocopter's strong international presence is ensured by its subsidiaries and participations in 21 countries. Eurocopter's worldwide network of service centers, training facilities, distributors and certified agents supports some 2,900 customers. There are currently more than 11,300 Eurocopter helicopters in service in 149 countries. Eurocopter offers the most comprehensive civil and military helicopter range in the world and is fully committed to safety as the most important aspect of its business.

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