



MD Helicopters, Inc. Earns Chinese Certification

All Models Now Approved

Mesa, Arizona, September 22, 2009... MD Helicopters, Inc (MDHI) announced that it has received validation of Type Certification H3WE for the MD 500E®, the MD 530F® and the 520N® from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). The MD 600N® and MD Explorer® were previously approved.

The Certification project commenced in January of 2008 and culminated with approval this past August. The Chinese Deputy Director and four other engineers traveled to Mesa, Arizona and spent two weeks at the MD Helicopters facilities gathering compliance data and reviewing technical information on the three aircraft. They reviewed compliance data on powerplants, flight test, structures and avionics.

“The Chinese Certification of the MD 500 Series Helicopters opens a new market for our entire family of versatile helicopters,” said Lynn Tilton, Chief Executive Officer of MD Helicopters, Inc. “Obviously, the opportunities in China are enormous.”

About the MD 500 Series

The MD 500 Series helicopters are the product of more than 40 years of market leadership, innovation, performance and value.

The MD 500E has earned its reputation as a hands-down favorite, delivering the highest speed, payload and productivity in its class. And it does it for a direct operating cost that beats the competition. The MD 500E features ample cabin space for five, with unsurpassed visibility.

The large, flat floor provides plenty of room for cargo, and the useful internal load of 1,519 pounds (689 kg) is ideally suited for most utility operations. The MD 500E cruises easily at 135 kt (250 kph) over a range of 290 nm (537 km). For applications where noise is a concern, the MD 500E can be equipped with a four-bladed tail rotor for quiet performance.

The MD 530F has more power and longer main-rotor blades and is the high-altitude, hot-day performer of the industry. It widens the operational envelope, enabling greater mission versatility and performance. This dependable workhorse has greater take-off power at significantly higher hover ceiling levels than competitive helicopters, capable of in-ground-effect hover 16,000 feet ISA.

The MD 530F retains the family characteristics of speed, agility and the ability to operate with ease in confined spaces. And, it maintains low direct operating costs.

The MD 520N is the newest member of the MD 500 family and is also is a member of an exclusive class of the safest, quietest helicopters in the world. These characteristics, plus the other family traits, make it a favorite for law enforcement agencies worldwide.

The key to its popularity is the MD Helicopters' exclusive NOTAR® system for anti-torque and directional control. Replacing conventional tail rotors with the NOTAR system provides an immediate margin of safety for crew and aircraft. Since the revolutionary system was introduced in 1992, NOTAR-equipped helicopters have accumulated more than 700,000 safe, reliable hours in flight, more than validating its reliability. With the NOTAR system, pilot workload is lower, while handling and maneuverability remain at the highest levels of the MD 500 Series.

For more information about the MD 500 Series Helicopters, come to the MD Helicopters Chalet Number 6 open each day of Helitech 2009 in Duxford, England today, Tuesday, September 22, 2009 through Thursday, September 24. Interested customers can also contact their nearest MD Helicopters distributor or sales representative (<http://www.mdhelicopters.com>).

About MD Helicopters, Inc.

MD Helicopters, Inc., is a leading manufacturer of commercial and military helicopters. The MDHI family of rotorcraft is world renowned for its value, versatility and performance. The MD Helicopters family includes the twin-engine MD Explorer®, and single engine versions of the MD 600N®, MD 520N®, MD 500E® and MD 530F®. The NOTAR® system for anti-torque control is used exclusively by MD Helicopters. The Company is based in Mesa, Ariz. For more information about MDHI visit <http://www.mdhelicopters.com>.

About Patriarch Partners LLC

Patriarch Partners is a vertically integrated private equity firm with robust in-house operational turn-around expertise. Founded in 2000, Patriarch was built upon a patented financial model designed to manage and monetize the distressed portfolios of financial institutions. Patriarch has since evolved into a global investment firm that concentrates on direct investments in and the transformation of complex businesses, building large industry platforms. Patriarch manages funds with over \$6 billion of equity and secured loan assets with equity investments in more than 65 companies, and controlling interests in approximately two-thirds of these. For more information, please visit www.patriarchpartners.com.