



MD Helicopters, Inc. Delivers an MD 500E® to Columbus, Ohio Police Unit

Helicopter is sixth MD 500E and twelfth MD Helicopter Purchased for the Columbus Fleet

Mesa, Arizona, September 22, 2009... MD Helicopters, Inc (MDHI) held a special delivery ceremony at its Mesa, Arizona completion facility on August 31 to tender the keys to a brand new MD 500E Helicopter to the City of Columbus Police Department. The MDHI built aircraft did not have a single “squawk” during the delivery inspection process. It is the sixth MD 500E in the Columbus fleet and it is the twelfth MD 500E Helicopter they have purchased since 1997, as part of their planned replacement program.

The City of Columbus Police Department was one of the first in the nation to operate helicopters for the law enforcement mission. The Helicopter Division was formed in the early 70's with the first operational aircraft being the piston-powered Hughes 269C. After 25 successful years of service, the City approved a fleet upgrade to the faster, high performance MD500E to meet the need of quicker response time due to the growth of the city.

The Columbus Police Helicopter Division now operates six MD500Es with four-bladed tail rotors and compiles 800 - 900 hours per year per aircraft. The Division patrols 275 square miles during a planned 16 hour per day schedule. Since the Helicopter Division of the City of Columbus Police Department was formed in 1972, it has logged more than 180,000 hours of flight time.

On hand to accept the aircraft were Officer/Pilot David Weirick and Officer/Pilot David Eubanks. Also on hand was Vic Speroni, Vice President Helicopter Minit-Men, the MDHI service Center that has a maintenance contract with the City of Columbus.

“In my opinion it is the best helicopter we could possibly have to accomplish the mission we set out to do,” said Officer Weirick. “I have flown several different makes of helicopter and this one is the best for maneuverability, flying low and slow, for quick turns and quick acceleration. The cost per hour is manageable for the city to budget and it is just a really enjoyable aircraft to fly.”

As a sign of continued support for the Helicopter Division, the City recently completed an \$8M hangar facility for the helicopter patrol operation.

The MD 500E has a proven track record of operational excellence with law enforcement departments around the globe. The MD 500E helicopter delivers the highest speed, payload and productivity in its class. The T-shaped instrument panel provides place for a full complement of modern avionics.

Proven reliability of the derated turbine engine, fail-safe design and a worldwide network of factory-authorized service centers assure customer satisfaction.

For more information about MD 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.

Photo Caption: Officer/Pilot David Weirick accepts keys on behalf of the Columbus PD Helicopter Division for a brand new MD 500E from MD Director Don Bridgers while Officer/Pilot David Eubanks looks on.