



NEWS RELEASE

MD Helicopters, Inc. to Show at 2009 Air Medical Transport Conference

CALSTAR Explorer on Display

Mesa, Arizona, October 22, 2009... MD Helicopters, Inc (MDHI) will have a booth at this year's Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC) and will have on display the latest California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) MD Explorer.

CALSTAR has the first helicopter in the world modified to allow for dramatically enhanced abilities and increased safety to make landings while using Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), according to Joseph Cook, CALSTAR's President and CEO. The new system will allow pilots to significantly increase the number of landings in inclement weather. As an example, when making an approach to the Ukiah Municipal Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandates that if pilots bring their aircraft down to an altitude of 1,107 feet above ground and if the pilot cannot see the landing site they must abort the landing. The new vertical guidance system will allow pilots to descend their aircraft to 364 feet to see the landing site without obstacles to landings.

"This is a tremendous difference," Cook said. "We will be able to make landings that up until this modification would have been impossible."

The MD Explorer on display has the new MDHI/CALSTAR interior option. This is a significant enhancement to the Explorer and includes LCD lighting, integrated storage and communications solutions among other features.

CALSTAR is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization that serves all of Central and Northern California as well as parts of Nevada. In September of this year it will mark its 25th anniversary. Cook noted that CALSTAR is widely recognized as being a leader in the industry. Since its inception CALSTAR has completed over 38,000 flights with an excellent safety record, with no aircraft accidents injuring either patients or crew members.

CALSTAR is fully accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Medical Transport Services (CAMTS), an internationally recognized agency that reviews, inspects and provides credentials to medical transport organizations that meet a comprehensive list of established standards.

Powered by two Pratt & Whitney Canada 207E engines with 720 takeoff horsepower per engine, the **MD Explorer** has the highest payload in the light-twin class. With a maximum gross weight of 6,500 pounds (2948 kg), it has plenty of power for take-off and landing on elevated platforms. Its Category A rating allows it to continue take off on a single engine if necessary. The NOTAR



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system also makes the MD Explorer the quietest helicopter in its class and one of the safest. The system reduces pilot workload and provided exceptionally smooth flight. The MD Explorer was the first light-twin helicopter certified by the FAA and Europe's JAA for Category A instrument flight rule (IFR) operations. According to comparative data, the MD Explorer is among the lowest in direct operating cost.

AMTC is specifically designed to provide leadership, to educate, to inform, to cultivate friendships and to supply up to the minute information on the latest techniques and innovative approaches to emergency medical transport practice from the experts in the field.

For more information about CALSTAR, the MD Explorer and other MD Helicopters offerings, come to booth 1106 at the **2009 Air Medical Transport Conference** taking place October 26, 2009 through Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at the San Jose Convention Center in San Jose, California. 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 70 companies, and controlling interests in approximately two-thirds of these. For more information, please visit www.patriarchpartners.com.