

AW/709/09
16th June 2009

Maritime Safety Administration Of China Orders Two Grand Helicopters

AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, is pleased to announce that the Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of China has signed a contract for two Grand light twin helicopters, with an option for an additional two to be exercised next year. Acceptance for the two purchased aircraft is expected to be performed later this year. The MSA is responsible for monitoring all inland and coastal waters and these two helicopters will be dedicated to controlling and fighting water pollution.

The Grand helicopter was selected following the evaluation of the responses to an international tender issued by the Ministry of Telecommunications of China, to whom the MSA reports. The Grand was chosen for its class leading operational capabilities and performance in the maritime role. The Grands will be used by the MSA for pollution control and they will operate aboard the MSA's new large vessels operating in the Guangdong province, Southern China.

The MSA's activities are planned to be further expanded to cover all regions in the next few years. With the completion of additional vessels already ordered by the MSA, the number of helicopters needed by the MSA is expected to grow significantly, further strengthening the success of AgustaWestland in China. The MSA order is another success for AgustaWestland in the important Chinese commercial helicopter market. AgustaWestland has already sold almost 30 helicopters in China and sees growing future business opportunities in the country where it aims to establish itself as the market leader in the light and medium twin commercial markets.

The Grand is a top-of-the-range light twin helicopter offering high performance capabilities, space and payload, previously only associated with larger helicopters, whilst retaining attractive light twin economics. The Grand has set a new standard in its class offering the highest performance, including full Cat. A/Class 1 capability enabling it to operate from elevated helipads. Orders for over 270 helicopters have been placed by more than 140 customers in over 30 countries worldwide for various roles including EMS, SAR, harbour pilot shuttle and VIP/corporate transport.

For further information please contact:

Geoff Russell
T: +44 (0) 1252 386429
F: +44 (0) 1252 386457
E: geoff.russell@agustawestland.com

Jacqueline Ferko
T: +1 571 435 5159
F: +1 703 243 0885
E: Jferko@awnainc.com

Roberto Caprarella
T: +39 0331 225101
F: +39 0331 229984
E: roberto.caprarella@agustawestland.com