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AgustaWestland AW109 LUH Programme Update

The AgustaWestland AW109 LUH (Light Utility Helicopter), with 61 orders placed by three major military customers, has established itself as the world's best selling military light-twin helicopter. The AW109 LUH is proving a real force multiplier thanks to its multi-role capability, performance and safety standards.

The Malaysian Army Aviation took delivery of the eleventh and last AW109 LOH (as the AW109 LUH is named in Malaysia) in September 2006. The primary purpose of the LOH is to serve as a cost efficient system for observation, reconnaissance, tactical transport and area suppression missions. Based at Kluang in peninsula Malaysia the AW109 LOHs delivers exceptional performance even in the normal hot and humid conditions, having been cleared to operate in temperatures up to 50C. The twenty AW109 LUH helicopters (twelve aircraft for land and eight for naval roles) purchased by the Swedish Armed Forces and designated HkP15, perform a wide range of roles including advanced aircrew training. The AW109 LUH is unique in its class, being suited for both land and ship based operations, and is being used by the Swedish Armed Forces for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), utility, search and rescue and medical evacuation duties. The HkP15 is being operated from both permanent and deployed bases, with some of the helicopters equipped for ship based operations. The naval variant will be equipped with a new sonobuoy dispensing system, giving the aircraft an anti-submarine warfare capability. Ten land-based helicopters have been delivered to date. Thirty AW109 LUHs were ordered for South African Air Force, eighteen of which have been delivered by June 2006. Six of them were manufactured by AgustaWestland while South African company Denel has built and delivered 12 aircraft with a further 12 to go. The SAAF's AW109 LUH aircraft are used for wide range of land based roles including troop transport, utility, observation, humanitarian operations and disaster relief.

The AW109 LUH, a military version of the successful AW109 Power, is the fastest light twin-engine helicopter available and has exceptionally good hot and high performance. Designed as a multi-role military helicopter, the AW109 LUH with the addition of appropriate role fit equipment can perform a wide range of missions. An advanced avionics package enabling day/night and IFR capability for single or dual pilot operations is provided and incorporates a four-axis digital Automatic Flight Control System, a Night Vision Goggle (NVG) compatible glass cockpit with Multi-Function Displays and an aircraft management system (AMS) for central control of communication, navigation, observation and weapon systems. A wide range of weapon systems and mission equipment enable the AW109 LUH to perform all light helicopter roles including training, troop transport, medical evacuation, search and rescue, maritime patrol, observation, armed escort and anti-armour. In addition to the AW109 LUH's current operators, further opportunities are being discussed with several new potential customers.

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