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Leonardo-Finmeccanica: AW149

The AW149 is an 8.5 ton class multirole military medium twin engine helicopter setting new standard in the market. The only new generation aircraft in its category in nearly 40 years, the AW149 is designed to meet the challenges of 21st Century multi-mission demands of expeditionary warfare and Homeland Security offering exceptional tactical superiority.

The AW149 features a state-of-the-art five-bladed main rotor and a four-bladed tail rotor granting smooth riding together with high speed and low noise signature. Two powerful 2000 shp class GE CT7-2E1 turbines with FADEC ensure outstanding performance in hot&high as well as one engine inoperative conditions. The large (11.2 m³), unobstructed and easy-accessible main cabin provides the capability to accommodate 18 equipped soldiers in a high density configuration and offers an impressive range of modular layouts with rapid reconfiguration on a mission by mission basis. The impressive list of possible cabin/mission capabilities is complemented by an equally impressive list of design and avionics features. The AW149 is fitted with the latest all weather day-night operational capabilities, dedicated avionics and a NVG-compatible glass cockpit with 4 large multifunction displays, while icing protection is available as an option. With a fully digital avionics system with open architecture and fully integrated mission equipment and a 4-axis auto-pilot, the AW149 is specifically designed for modern battlefield operations. Advanced sensors, communication and data sharing systems provide high situational awareness for network-centric environments. Provision for Obstacle Warning System (OWS), Terrain Avoidance and Warning System (TAWS) and Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) further enhances safety while reducing crew workload. The AW149 features low signatures (acoustic, IR and radar) and detectability in all phases of flight, full airframe crashworthiness and damage/ballistic tolerance, crashworthy troops seats and armoured pilot seats, full system redundancy and fail safe design, a unique 50 minute run-dry capable transmission, low and easy maintenance. The fuselage provides the possibility to install an external stores support pylon which can carry a wide range of weapon systems such as rocket launchers, machineguns and missiles, self-defence equipment or auxiliary tanks. Structural provisions for the installation of external cargo hook, rescue hoist and all the other mission dependent equipment are provided. Easy ground handling and taxiing as well as operation from unprepared terrain is made possible by the heavy-duty nose-wheel high energy absorbing, semi-retractable landing gear for higher speed.

From combat support, transport of troop and material, medical evacuation, SAR and Combat SAR, command and control and many other airborne missions, the AW149 provides the flexibility requested to a modern battlefield support helicopter, and executes all required missions with unequalled cost-effectiveness.

Military certification by the relevant Italian military authority was obtained in summer 2014. The AW149 is being offered in the marketplace to meet the demand for a modern technology helicopter to replace thousands of older generation helicopters in service with military operators worldwide over the next 30 years. A comprehensive package of tailored support and training solutions will be available for customers to maximize operational effectiveness.