

Companies taking flight with partnership



By Kris Dube / News Editor Share
June 2, 2015



Niagara Helicopter president Luc Pilon and Airbus Helicopters president and CEO Romain Trapp. (Bullet News photo by Kris Dube).



FORT ERIE - Two Niagara-based companies celebrated a major exchange on Tuesday morning.

Airbus Helicopters and Niagara Helicopter explained a recently-formed partnership in the presence of local dignitaries, management and employees from both companies.

The partnership between the two local Niagara companies was solidified with the delivery of four new H130 aircraft to Niagara Helicopters, who provide 'flightseeing' tours over the Niagara Falls to customers from all over the world.

“It is a privilege to be working with Niagara Helicopter, who has established a world-renowned reputation in the flightseeing industry,” says Mr. Romain Trapp, president and chief executive officer of Airbus Helicopters Canada.

“The selection and introduction of the H130 by Niagara Helicopters is a tremendous commitment to Airbus and we are very proud of this new partnership,” he added.

According to experts at Tuesday's event, the H130 is the quietest helicopter on the market:

Its tail rotor and automatic variable rotor speed control result in a significantly reduced external sound level which has set the standards for tour operations worldwide.

The H130 is a light single-engine helicopter with all of the latest aircraft technology. It has a roomy modular cabin that can accommodate one pilot plus up to seven passengers.

“We are confident the inclusion of the H130 aircraft will further our goals for providing an enhanced, safer overall customer experience while significantly reducing the noise imprint for the community and visitors to Niagara Falls” said Anna Pierce, vice-president and general manager of Niagara Helicopters.

Niagara Helicopters will be using the new H130 aircraft for sightseeing operations, charter flights, aerial surveillance, film and photography, external loads and other specialty flying in and around Niagara.

For over 50 years, Niagara Helicopters has operated in Niagara Falls.

Airbus Helicopters is a division of Airbus Group.

The company provides the most efficient civil and military helicopter solutions to its customers who serve, protect, save lives and safely carry passengers in highly demanding environments.

Flying more than three million flight hours per year, the company's in-service fleet includes some 12,000 helicopters operated by more than 3,000 customers in 152 countries.

Airbus Helicopters employs more than 23,000 people worldwide.

The Fort Erie operation employs approximately 240 people.

Airbus was formerly known as Eurocopter until the company rebranded in 2013.

After the ceremony on Tuesday, Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop told Bullet News that this transaction between both Niagara companies is something he would like to see take place more often around the region.

"We need more of this," said Redekop.

Last February, Premier Kathleen Wynne visited Airbus Helicopters in Fort Erie when it was announced that 40 additional high-tech jobs were being made available at the site.

The Fort Erie facility is recognized as a centre of excellence for composite component manufacturing within the Airbus Helicopters Group.

It produces several composite components for a variety of the company's leading aircraft models which are sold internationally in more than 100 markets.