

Eurosatory 2016

Airbus Helicopters completes first firing campaign with HForce system

- Development on track for qualification end of 2017
- Firing campaign demonstrates performance of ballistic weapons, electro-optical system and helmet mounted display on H225M

Marignane, 13 June 2016 – Airbus Helicopters has recently completed a first round of firing tests with HForce, a generic weapon system in development for the company's commercial helicopter range. The innovative system, which includes a central core unit, Thales' Scorpion monocular helmet mounted sight display (HMSD), an electro-optical system (EOS) from Wescam as well as gunner armament weapon grips and weapon pods, has been undergoing testing for the past five months.

From May 25th to June 3rd, a firing campaign involving an HForce-equipped H225M took place on a dedicated range in Belgium. This allowed Airbus Helicopters to demonstrate the performance of HForce with ballistic weapons, including 12,7 mm guns, 70 mm rockets as well as 20 mm cannons.

"This important milestone, achieved on time, demonstrates that HForce achieves excellent results above specifications, and that it provides a real added value in terms of target tracking and acquisition for day or night missions, thanks to the EOS and HMSD", said Jean-Luc André, HForce Program Manager.

HForce, whose development was launched two years ago, is an incremental, affordable, plug n' play weapon management system that can be fitted onto any military version of Airbus Helicopters commercial range (H125M, H145M, H225M). HForce is designed to meet the requirements of defense agencies seeking light attack mission capabilities or a complement to their existing fleet of specialized attack helicopters.

About Airbus Helicopters (www.airbushelicopters.com)

Airbus Helicopters, a division of Airbus Group, provides the most efficient civil and military helicopter solutions worldwide. Its in-service fleet includes nearly 12,000 helicopters operated by more than 3,000 customers in 154 countries. Airbus Helicopters employs more than 22,000 people worldwide and in 2015 generated revenues of 6.8 billion euros.

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