
Botswana's Police Air Support Branch orders three AS350 B3e from Airbus Helicopters

Gaborone, 26 January 2015 –Botswana's Police Service today signed for a contract for three new AS350 B3e 'Ecureuil" Airbus Helicopters aircraft for its Police Air Support Branch.

The new helicopters will be customised to the Botswana Police Service's specification, including the installation of night vision equipment for night-time operations and other law enforcement equipment. The start of delivery of the new aircraft is scheduled for later in 2015.

The additional helicopters with their enhanced capability will fulfil Botswana's requirement for an expanded airborne law enforcement and crime prevention force.

Airbus Helicopters Southern Africa General Manager, Arnaud Montalvo said: "We are proud to continue our relationship with the Botswana Police Air Support Unit and that it has selected the AS350 B3e, which has a proven pedigree in police missions – especially in hot and high conditions typical of the much of Botswana. We are confident these aircraft will make an enormous contribution to safeguarding the citizens of Botswana and their property".

In addition to the helicopters, Airbus Helicopters will also train Botswana Police Air Support Branch pilots and mechanics.

The AS350 B3e is a member of Airbus Helicopters rugged and proven Ecureuil family and was selected for its unmatched performance and efficiency in Botswana's typically hot and high elevation conditions. Its Turboméca Arriel 2D turbine engine generates greater power, giving the helicopter unmatched manoeuvrability, performance and payload versatility in comparison with other similar size machines.

Around the world, including Southern Africa, Airbus Helicopters' products are the top-performing aircraft in their class and a firm favourite with law enforcement agencies. Like Botswana, the police in South Africa, Namibia and Angola have all selected Airbus Helicopters equipment, including numerous AS350 B2, B3 and B3e variants.

Worldwide, to date, Airbus Helicopters has sold more than 5,800 Ecureuil family aircraft (4,900 are In-service), - including more than 1600 (1152 B3 / 476 B3e) B3 series machines – to some 1,800 operators in 120 countries, including numerous law enforcement and civic agencies.

About Airbus Helicopters Southern Africa (AHZA)

Airbus Helicopters Southern Africa (AHZA) Pty. Ltd. was formed in 1994. It is headquartered at Grand Central Airport close to Johannesburg and Pretoria and has service centres in Cape Town and Durban. AHZA serves a fleet of more than 230 helicopters.

About Airbus Helicopters

Airbus Helicopters, formerly Eurocopter, is a division of Airbus Group, a global pioneer in aerospace and defense related services. Airbus Helicopters is the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer and employs more than 23,000 people worldwide. With 46 percent market share in civil and parapublic sectors, the company's fleet in service includes some 12,000 helicopters operated by more than 3,000 customers in approximately 150 countries. Airbus Helicopters' international presence is marked by its customer centers and participations in 21 countries, and its worldwide network of service centers, training facilities, distributors and certified agents. Airbus Helicopters' range of civil and military helicopters is the world's largest; its aircraft account for one third of the worldwide civil and parapublic fleet. The company's chief priority is to ensure the safe operation of its aircraft for the thousands of people who fly more than 3 million hours per year.

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