

Airbus Helicopters teams up with India's Mahindra Group

- Airbus Helicopters and Mahindra Group subsidiary, Mahindra Defence, form a partnership to respond to India's military helicopter tenders
- A joint venture company will be set up in the coming months, aiming to become the first private Indian helicopter manufacturer under the 'Make in India' initiative

New Delhi, 3 July 2015 – Airbus Helicopters is joining hands with Mahindra Group subsidiary, Mahindra Defence, to produce helicopters in India in order to meet the country's military requirements. The strengths of both the companies will ensure a strong partnership to present the best rotorcraft solutions for India's needs and strengthen indigenous industrial capabilities. The teaming represents a significant step forward in the country's 'Make in India' ambition.

"We have an unparalleled track-record of successful industrial collaborations with local partners across the world. We are convinced that with Mahindra we will not only have a mutually rewarding association but one which will offer immense benefits to India," said Guillaume Faury, Airbus Helicopters President & CEO. "The tie-up is in line with our intent to develop an indigenous industrial ecosystem for helicopters. The joint venture will be dedicated to supplying the Indian Armed Forces with Made-in-India, state-of-the-art helicopters of high reliability, quality and safety standard based on combat-proven platforms."

Both companies will now get into discussions to finalize the formation of the joint venture which will act as the prime contractor for India's military helicopter tenders including the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Helicopter, the Naval Utility Helicopter and the Naval Multirole Helicopter procurement programs.

"This arrangement between two established and trusted industrial players will create a formidable partnership," said S. P. Shukla, Group President, Aerospace and Defence Sector and Chairman, Mahindra Defence Systems Limited. "We have extensive expertise in engineering, automotive and fixed-wing sectors and have made substantial investments in aero components manufacturing, while Airbus Helicopters offers best-in-class rotorcraft platforms. Together, we will produce India's next-generation helicopters that will not only answer our country's defence needs but will also have the potential for exports in the future."

The resulting joint venture aims to become the first private Indian helicopter manufacturer under the 'Make in India' initiative. This will create hundreds of high-tech jobs locally and lead to a flow of cutting edge technologies to India should it be selected in the governmental helicopter tenders.

About Mahindra Aerospace and Defence Sector

Mahindra Aerospace has led the Mahindra Group's foray into utility aircraft and aerostructure manufacturing since 2008. Its utility aircraft business, based in Australia, currently produces the Airvan 8, the most capable, rugged and versatile utility aircraft in its class. Certified in 38 countries, over 200 are in service. Mahindra Aerospace is also developing a 10-seat turboprop, the Airvan 10, which is scheduled for certification in 2015.

Mahindra Defence has companies engaged in catering to needs of all three wings of Defence forces – Army, Airforce and Navy. Range includes armoured vehicles, underwater warfare equipment, radars and surveillance equipment's etc.

About Mahindra

A USD 16.9 billion multinational group based in Mumbai, India, Mahindra employs more than 220,000 people in over 100 countries. Mahindra operates in the key industries that drive economic growth, enjoying a leadership position in tractors, utility vehicles, information technology, financial services and vacation ownership. In addition, Mahindra enjoys a strong presence in the agribusiness, aerospace, components, consulting services, defence, energy, industrial equipment, logistics, real estate, retail, steel, commercial vehicles and two wheeler industries. Mahindra has dedicated plants and facilities to address specialized requirements of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and is an active participant in various 'Make in India' programmes in this space.

In 2014, Mahindra featured on the Forbes Global 2000, a comprehensive listing of the world's largest, most powerful public companies, as measured by revenue, profit, assets and market value. The Mahindra Group also received the Financial Times 'Boldness in Business' Award in the 'Emerging Markets' category in 2013.

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About Airbus Helicopters (www.airbushelicopters.com)

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 3 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 and in 2014 generated revenues of 6.5 billion Euros. In line with the company's new identity, fully integrated into Airbus Group, Airbus Helicopters has renamed its product range replacing the former "EC" designation with an "H".

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