Airbus Helicopters

The Division showed resilience, retaining its leading market position and reporting higher earnings. Meanwhile, two new models were certified and further steps were taken on innovation programmes.

Airbus Helicopters maintained its top ranking in the civil and parapublic market, despite a challenging environment reflecting the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Net orders totalled 268 helicopters (2019: 310 units), including 31 naval versions of the NH90 for Germany’s Bundeswehr in the fourth quarter and 11 H160s. Orders for the best-selling H145 programme included 17 UH-72Bs for the US Army, the first versions equipped with the Fenestron tail rotor and Helionix avionics suite ordered by the customer.

In services, order intake included an HCare contract from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to support its fleet of H135 helicopters.

Total deliveries declined to 300 units (2019: 332 units) and included the initial five-bladed H145 helicopters and first NH90s for the Spanish Air Force. Revenues however rose by 4% to €6,251 million (2019: €6,007 million), benefiting from a favourable product mix and growth in services. EBIT Adjusted increased to €471 million (2019: €422 million), reflecting strong government-related activities, reliable programme execution as well as lower Research and Development (R&D) expenses.

In reaction to the pandemic, Airbus Helicopters mobilised to keep its military and civil customers flying thanks to elevated levels of technical and logistics support, new distance learning solutions, and direct assistance in making protective equipment available to pilots and crews.

Key new helicopters certified
The more capable five-bladed H145 was certified by both the European Union Aviation Safety Agency and US Federal Aviation Administration during the year. This latest upgrade of the H145 family increases the useful load of the helicopter by 150kg. European authorities also certified the flagship multi-role twin-engine H160 helicopter. Featuring the latest technological innovations, the H160 is able to perform missions such as offshore transportation, emergency medical services, business aviation and public services.

Innovation projects progress
In 2020, innovation milestones included the first fully automatic flight of CityAirbus, a demonstrator that will play an important role in developing zero-emission flight and in preparing the future urban air mobility market. The VSR700, the rotary-wing unmanned aerial system, performed its first free flight in July 2020 and autonomous deck-landing trials at the end of the year.

Key achievements 2020
- Leading position in civil and parapublic market retained
- First five-bladed H145 deliveries following certification
- H160 helicopter certified by EASA
- CityAirbus and VSR700 innovation projects reach milestones

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<tr>
<th>Deliveries (units)</th>
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<th>Revenues (€ million)</th>
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<td>6,251 (2019: 6,007)</td>
<td>471 (2019: 422)</td>
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