

Press Release

Airbus delivers H130 helicopter to be the new jewel on Australia's Great Barrier Reef

First of two new helicopters for tourism operator Nautilus

Queensland, 3 June 2019 – Airbus has this week delivered the first of two new H130 helicopters to be deployed by Far North Queensland tourism operator, Nautilus Aviation's new partnership with the Quicksilver Group, based in Port Douglas.

From major tourist destinations to the busy airspace over cities, the single-engine H130 is in widespread use with sightseeing services, charter operators and emergency medical services.

"As we have been successfully operating the H130s for a number of years now, the choice of new aircraft for the Quicksilver operation was an easy one to make. It's the ideal helicopter for tourist operations in terms of comfort, view and ease of maintainability. With the ability to carry 7 passengers, the H130 becomes a very economical platform to operate in a high volume operation. The addition of the latest H130 brings the total in our fleet to four with the delivery of a fifth expected later this year," said Aaron Finn, CEO of Nautilus Aviation.

"As one of the quietest helicopters in the skies, the H130 sets the standard for tourism operations worldwide. Its very low sound level is quieter than the most restrictive limits defined for flights over national parks, animal reserves, and urban areas, and it is ideal for operations over the iconic Great Barrier Reef," said Andrew Mathewson, Managing Director of Airbus Australia Pacific.

"The wide, unobstructed cabin provides outstanding visibility through a large wrap-around screen and wide windows. Added to this are the exceptional safety aspects of the shrouded Fenestron tail rotor and robust contained fuel system."

Mr Mathewson also said that Airbus had a long standing business relationship with Nautilus Aviation and the new purchases extended that agreement with through-life support of the new and existing Airbus helicopter fleet, encompassing HCare service solutions and full technical support.

"I'm delighted that Airbus was able to hand over the new H130 helicopter, in new distinctive Quicksilver livery, at the Airbus approved maintenance centre, Pacific Crown Helicopters, based at the Sunshine Coast Airport," he added.

Today, there are around 700 H130 helicopters flying globally by more than 380 operators in 65 countries. 36% of the global H130 fleet is used for commercial passenger transportation and tourism.

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About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2018 it generated revenues of €64 billion and employed a workforce of around 134,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Media Contacts

Melissa Thomson
Belinda Ng
Guillaume Steuer

+61 408 660 891
+65 6592 7217
+33 (0) 6 73 82 11 68

melissa.thomson@airbus.com
belinda.ng@airbus.com
guillaume.steuer@airbus.com

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