

New Collegiate Helicopter Program Chooses Sikorsky Global Helicopters Aircraft for Training

HORSEHEADS, N.Y., June 18, 2009 – Sikorsky Global Helicopters, a Sikorsky company, announced today that Kent State University will introduce helicopter training courses this month using S-300C*Bi*™ helicopters. Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. (**NYSE:UTX**).

The aeronautics program within the university's College of Technology will offer private, commercial, certified flight instructor (CFI) and certified flight instructor instrument (CFII) helicopter ratings. Kent State, located in Kent, Ohio, also operates a fixed wing training program and will offer helicopter add-on ratings for commercial, private pilots and CFIs.

The college currently leases two S-300C*Bi* helicopters, one from Eagles Wings Aviation and the other from Precision Helicopters, both of Cleveland, Ohio.

“The S-300C*Bi* helicopter meets the weight and performance requirements for our student population,” said Dr. Edward Overchuk, assistant professor of aeronautical studies at Kent State. “It also has outstanding handling characteristics, and is forgiving and cost effective for the performance that it provides.”

Overchuk developed the helicopter program and is currently the lead helicopter instructor as the college's only dual-rated CFI.

Expanding Kent State Aeronautics to include helicopter courses became possible after Kent State established the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) in the aeronautics program.

The aeronautics program enrolls more than 100 students every year. About 85 percent of those students enter the pilot training program, and Overchuk said he expects the add-on helicopter ratings to be most popular with these students.

Overchuk has made connections with medevac helicopter units at local hospitals to secure internship partnerships for students. The College of Technology has also reached out to Army and Air Force ROTC programs on campus for joint collaboration in the helicopter training program.

Kent State joins a growing list of colleges and universities that operate S-300C™ and S-300CBi helicopters in their aviation programs, including the University of North Dakota and Kansas State University. The S-300CBi helicopter is renowned for its excellent flight characteristics, impressive safety record, and competitive operating costs, making it a leader in its class for cost- and mission-effective training.

Sikorsky Global Helicopters produces the S-76®, S-92®, and H-92™ helicopters as well as the S-300C™, S-300CBi™, S-333™, and S-434™ light helicopters. Its companies include Keystone Helicopter Corp. and Associated Aircraft Group (AAG).

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., based in Stratford, Conn., is a world leader in helicopter design, manufacture, and service. United Technologies Corp., based in Hartford, Conn., provides a broad range of high-technology products and support services to the aerospace and building systems industries.

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