



COMMITMENT BY OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATORS TO HELP IMPROVE SAFETY

Six senior executives from offshore helicopter operators gathered today in the course of the International Helicopter Safety Symposium (IHSS) 2010 in Cascais, Portugal



to sign a Letter of Commitment entitled “A Call to Action by and for Offshore Helicopter Operators”. An additional four operators also committed to the initiative through a virtual signing. The commitment symbolises an outstanding collective effort to further enhance the safety record of all helicopter operators and is a clear sign of their dedication to the International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) safety programme.

The following ten offshore operators signed the letter: Bond, Bristow, BIH, CHC, Cougar, Dancopter, Era, Heli-Union, Inaer, and PHI. The letter reaffirms the personal and collective commitment of the signatories as well as calling upon “all those who operate helicopters in the offshore environment to implement the manufacturers’ recommended maintenance and flight operations practices and the safety enhancements recommended by the IHST”.

The four areas of concentration cited in the letter are the adoption of Safety Management Systems (SMS); improvements in training; the use of advanced systems and equipment, such as Flight Data Monitoring systems (FDM) and health monitoring systems; and Cultural/Behavioural Change and Crew Resource Management (CRM) Programmes.

The Letter of Commitment follows on from the signing of a similar letter from the CEO’s of the four largest helicopter manufacturers who gathered at HeliExpo in February 2010 to commit their organizations to support the IHST safety initiative.

IHSS 2010 took place on the 3rd and 4th of October 2010 in Cascais. The event saw over 100 members of the IHST gather from across the world to update on progress towards **the IHST’s aim of reducing helicopter accidents by 80% by 2016**. Alongside the work of the IHST’s Regional Teams, the support of key stakeholders within the helicopter community has been secured to support the ongoing activity.

Since the IHST’s inception in early 2006, teams in Australia, Brazil, Europe, India, Japan and North America, along with members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, have analysed hundreds of helicopter accident records to find the dominant causes and the strongest means of prevention. The results of this analysis have been captured in reports prepared by the European and U.S. Helicopter Safety Analysis Teams. IHST is making significant progress with the

implementation of safety products developed to support the Intervention Recommendations (IRs) found in these reports. These reports and products, IHST Toolkits (4) and safety videos are all freely available at www.ihst.org.

The International Helicopter Safety Symposium (IHSS) 2010 was held at the Miragem Hotel in Cascais, Portugal on the 3rd and 4th of October 2010.

Notes to Editors:

A copy of the letter is attached.

Photographs shows (from left to right):

Mr Mike Hurst (representing PHI)

Mr Tony O'Keefe (signing for BIH)

Mr Stephen Bond (signing for Bond Helicopters)

Mr William Chiles (signing for Bristow Group)

Mr Duncan Trapp (representing CHC Helicopter)

Mr Luis Miñano (signing for Inaer)

Mr Geoffroy Vivaux (representing Héli-union)

Mr Ken Norie (signing for Cougar)

Captain John Black (one of the tri-chairs of the European Helicopter Safety Team, a Regional Partner of the IHST).

The Letter of Commitment follows on from the signing of a similar letter from the Manufacturers which was signed at the HeliExpo event in February 2010.

Further letters are planned from other key areas within the helicopter community – details will be forwarded in due course.

The IHST has produced toolkits to assist with SMS, training and FDM, all of which may be accessed (fee of charge) through their website. More details on the IHST initiative can be found at the website (www.ihst.org).