

China's Helicopter Boom Gets Underway

中国直升机市场正在扩大

Don't be surprised if there are no big orders at this year's show. They have already been placed.

Airbus Helicopters, Bell Helicopter and Leonardo Helicopters are together sitting on orders and commitments for more than 500 aircraft to be delivered to Chinese customers over the next 10 years. That's 50 helicopters a year already booked compared to China's potential to absorb at least 100 helicopters a year, according to Airbus Helicopters' Vincent Dufour, vice president-commercial for China.

China has now become Airbus Helicopters' single largest market, knocking the U.S. from the No. 1 position, he notes.

The orders and commitments are:

- Airbus Helicopters' sale to a Chinese consortium of 100 twin-engine H135 helicopters over 10 years that will be assembled in China in Qingdao.

- A commitment from CM International Financial Leasing Corp., part of China Minsheng Investment, for 100 single-engine Airbus Helicopter H125 Ecureuil and H130 single-engine helicopters under a 100-aircraft deal signed at the 2015 China Heli Expo. Some 20 have been delivered.

- Bell Helicopter and Shaanxi Aviation Industry Development Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Shaanxi Energy Group, and Xi'an Helicopter Company Ltd., agreed last November to the purchase of 100 Bell 407GXPs over five

years for air ambulance, law enforcement and other missions, and to consider setting up a final assembly line in China.

- Bell Helicopter has publicly acknowledged commitments for more than 75 of its Bell 505 JetRanger X to Chinese customers, including 60 to Reignwood Investment, Ltd. The first delivery to China is expected early next year.

- Deals by Leonardo Helicopters with its China distributor, Sino-US Intercontinental of Shanghai, for 80 helicopters of all types. Leonardo says it has sold 180 helicopters to Chinese customers; some 47 were active on the civil register at the end of 2016 according to Hong Kong consultants Asian Sky Group (**Hall 2, Booth A803**).

- Enstrom Helicopter's owner Chongqing General Aviation won orders in June for 10 four-passenger turbine-powered 480B helicopters for a customer in Inner Mongolia, and for three 480Bs for a low-altitude tourism company in Sichuan.

China's civil helicopter fleet has been



China's skies will be filled with helicopters when the boom takes off.

growing at 15-20% a year and is expected to continue that path. Mainland China had a fleet of 492 turbine helicopters at the end of 2016, and Greater China 540, Asian Sky Group reported in its annual survey.

Light piston-engined helicopters are extremely popular, with about 380 in service, according to the Website Rotorspot. Some 300 of these are Robinson R22 and R44s.

—John Morris

空客直升机、贝尔直升机和莱昂纳多直升机公司已拥有500多架直升机的确认和意向订单，将在未来十年内向中国客户交付。根据空客直升机公司中国商业副总裁 Vincent Dufour的说法，中国一年订购了50架，而中国每年可吸纳至少100架直升机订单。

中国现在已经超越美国，成为空客直升机公司最大的单一市场。

确认和意向订单如下：

- 空客直升机公司将在今后十多年来在青岛组装并向中国客户出售100架双发H135直升机。

- 中国民生银行旗下的CM国际金融租赁公司在2015年中国直升机博览会上与空客直升机公司签署了100架H125和H130单发直升机的意向订单。约20架直升机已经交付。

- 贝尔直升机公司和陕西能源集团下属的陕西航空工业发展有限公司以及西安直升机有限公司于去年11月达成购买协议，在5年内购买了100架贝尔407GXP直升机，用于空中救护、执法等任务并考虑在中国设立最终装配线。

- 贝尔直升机公司已公开宣布多位中国客户签署了75架贝尔505

JetRanger X直升机的意向订单，其中包括华彬集团的60架。预计第一架直升机在明年年初交付中国。

- 莱昂纳多直升机公司与其中国经销商上海中美洲际航空公司共同出售了80架各类直升机。莱昂纳多表示已向中国客户出售了180架直升机；据亚翔集团的报告，截至2016年年底，还有47架莱昂纳多直升机在中国民航局注册在役。

- 恩斯特罗姆直升机所有者重庆通用航空公司在今年6月从一位内蒙古客户那里获得了10架四座级涡轮动力的480B直升机订单，四川省

的一家低空旅游公司则订购了3架480B直升机。

中国民用直升机机队每年以15%~20%的速度增长，预计将继续保持这一势头。根据亚翔集团的年度调查报告，中国大陆在2016年年底拥有492架涡轮动力直升机，在大中华区这一数字为540架。

根据Rotorspot网站，轻型活塞式发动机直升机非常受欢迎，约380架直升机在服役中，其中约300架是罗宾逊R22和R44直升机。