



## Thales world leader in civil helicopter avionics expands in the US market

**Heli-Expo, Houston 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2008** - Thales today announced that it is investing further into the US market by dedicating more people, advanced technologies and comprehensive services to civil helicopter aviation. Thales has already realized early success in the US helicopter market with both military and civil programs.

Market acceptance of the company's TopOwl<sup>®</sup> helmet mounted display system is now fully confirmed through its selection by the United States Marine Corp, and Thales' TopDeck<sup>®</sup> advanced avionics suite has been chosen by Sikorsky for the S-76D program. Additionally, Thales is a first tier partner alongside American Eurocopter in the supply of the Lakota UH-72A helicopter to EADS North America for the US Army Aviation light utility helicopter program. Thales supplies its market-leading MEGHAS<sup>®</sup> avionics suite to American Eurocopter for this helicopter.

Building on its' successful track record, Thales now has offices for its helicopter business in New Jersey. *"Thales is here now and we expect to build business relationships like never before. Our local team is made-up of industry experts who understand the needs of the market and how to best take care of the customer,"* said Mark Knight, Thales Vice President Helicopter Solutions for the US. *"The Thales philosophy is to be located near its customer and we see the United States as a key region to grow a strong team. Thales is committed to supporting its existing customers to ensure maximum satisfaction and will continue to make a difference in the industry."*

Globally, the company has installed helicopter solutions on over 5,000 civil aircraft and over 2000 military aircraft worldwide, which are supported by Thales' global service and support network. Thales' success is built on the company's ability to be innovative which ultimately improves the way pilots fly.

### **Thales Helicopter Solutions – versatile portfolio, global presence**

Thales develops and produces systems and equipment for civil and military helicopters, spanning all types of applications. As the leading supplier of avionics to Eurocopter, Thales was involved in the European NH90 and Tiger military helicopter programmes from the outset. Thales is a supplier to AgustaWestland for the A109 LUH and is providing the TopDeck<sup>®</sup> integrated avionics suite for Sikorsky's new S-76D helicopter—a choice that strengthens Thales's position to pursue growth in the U.S. civil and military helicopter markets. In the United Kingdom, Thales is involved in several helicopter modernisation programmes such as the Future Lynx with AgustaWestland and the Puma Life extension with Eurocopter.

### **About Thales**

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, addressing defence, aerospace and security markets worldwide. Thales's leading-edge technology is supported by 22 000 R&D engineers who offer a capability unmatched in Europe to develop and deploy field-proven mission-critical information systems. To this end, the group's civil and military businesses develop in parallel and share a common base of technologies to serve a single objective: the security of people, property and nations. The group builds its growth on its unique multi-domestic strategy based on trusted partnerships with national customers and market players, while leveraging its global expertise to support local technology and industrial development. Thales employs 68,000 people in 50 countries with forecast 2007 revenues in excess of € 12 billion.

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