



Thales partners with Schiebel for the French DGA VTOL UAV trials

Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1 February 2010 – In December 2009, the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA) selected Schiebel's unmanned aerial system Camcopter S-100 to run a series of comprehensive trials to assess the operational advantages of a VTOL (Vertical Takeoff and Landing) UAV system. These trials will take place during the first half of 2010 on various sites representative of land /urban and coastal operations, operated by French Army and Navy forces representatives.

Leveraging its expertise in airworthiness and flight certification, as well as its involvement in French and European air safety regulations, and its European leadership in Unmanned Airborne Systems, Thales will support Schiebel in the management of these VTOL trials. The tests are to take place on a Camcopter S-100 fitted with a Thales Agile 2 Electro Optical and Infra Red (EO/IR) payload.

This contract represents a further step forward in the European roadmap for UAV systems and confirms Thales as a key partner in UAV mission systems.

In its comprehensive approach to meet the UAV system requirements of European forces, Thales is a driving force in the emergence of collaborative projects, such as WIMAAS (Wide Maritime Area Airborne Surveillance) intended to facilitate the exchange and fusion of data between passive and active assets. Thales is also involved in the numerous research programmes around the insertion of UAVs into civil airspace like ASTRAEA (UK); MIDCAS (Europe) – sense & avoid, or SIGAT which aims at defining the appropriate radio frequency regarding command and control and payloads data links for future UAS integration into the General Air Traffic.

Thales is currently leading the Technical Design Study D2AD – the design and demonstration of an automatic take-off, landing and deck landing system for rotorcraft UAVs, set to be a vital component of future tactical UAV programmes.

Thales – high performance mission systems for UAVs.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace and Space, Defence, Security and Transportation markets. In 2008, the company generated revenues of 12.7 billion euros with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 25,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

Press Contact

Natasha Harvey

+ 33 1 34 81 40 50

+ 33 6 74 94 23 81

natasha.harvey@fr.thalesgroup.com

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