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## Hawker Pacific announces Performance Boost for Bell Helicopter's 429

- **The world's newest and most advanced twin-engine helicopter, the Bell 429, has received a weight increase approval of 500 lbs.**
- **A new Bell 429 corporate order has been secured by Hawker Pacific in Australia**

Hawker Pacific, Asia Pacific's leading aircraft sales, services and product support company is pleased to announce Bell Helicopter's recent approval by Transport Canada for a 500 lbs. weight increase of the Bell 429, increasing its maximum gross weight to 7,500 lbs.

Hawker Pacific's Senior Vice President, Aircraft Sales & Flight Services Group, Tony Jones said: "This approval directly translates to greater range and/or payload for the 429, and is great news for our customers and future customers in the region."

"The Bell 429 was built to target a larger market, with its light frame and versatile interior, and the gross weight increase will further grow its appeal as a multi-use aircraft in the region – which has already proved valuable for corporate and special mission uses."

"The news also follows a Bell 429 corporate order in Australia recently signed by Hawker Pacific. We now have a Bell 429 in service in New Zealand and will have five aircraft operating in Australia by the middle of this year."

The Bell 429 is certified for Single or Dual Pilot IFR, Cat. A / JAROPS Performance Class 1 at maximum gross weight; has a state-of-the-art, fully-integrated glass cockpit; an advanced drive system that delivers power and superb performance; best in class WAAS navigation and IFR capability; and is the first helicopter certified through the MSG-3 process. The additional gross weight now permits operators to equip the Bell 429 with additional options including Helicopter Terrain Awareness Warning System (HTAWS), a radar altimeter, cockpit voice/flight data recorder and strobe lights.

"The gross weight increase has been eagerly anticipated in the marketplace and will continue fuelling demand, further enhancing the aircraft's features of versatility, low direct operating costs and large cabin space," Tony Jones said.

The weight deviation improvement will have the capability to be retrofitted to the existing fleet through the installation of a minimal kit that will be available through Bell Helicopter. Additionally, the manufacturer will issue the necessary changes to the flight manual to correspond with the additional weight capacity. This information will be made available through Hawker Pacific, the official sales representative and local face of Bell Helicopter in the region.

The Bell 429 will be on show at the 2012 Heli & UV Pacific Exhibition and Conference, RACV Royal Pines Resort, Queensland on 23-24 May.

## Note to Editor:

1. **Hawker Pacific** is a market leader in integrated civil and military aerospace sales and product support in South East Asia, Australia, the Pacific and the Middle East and is one of the largest independent companies of its type in the region with nearly 600 employees. The company's Asian operations include established businesses in Singapore, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Hawker Pacific represents some of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers, including Hawker Beechcraft Corporation, Bell Helicopter and Diamond Aircraft. Hawker Pacific is also a primary dealer in used aircraft with networks to source, acquire and trade aircraft globally.

Hawker Pacific is also Australia's premier fixed base operator (FBO) with a network of facilities in Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Singapore, Perth, Shanghai and Malaysia. The company's FBOs offer VIP services and crew facilities, 24/7 on demand aircraft charter from a modern aircraft fleet, flight operations and total aircraft management.

Hawker Pacific's product support activities include MRO, structural modification and support services to a wide range of fixed and rotary wing aircraft for corporate, charter, defence and special mission operators throughout the region. Other services include aircraft and engine maintenance, repair and overhaul, special mission aircraft modifications, design engineering, avionics parts and service, plus the provision of spare parts, exchange rotables and equipment sales.

Hawker Pacific holds the highest certification levels and accreditations including CASA, EASA and FAA certification, ISO 9001 Bureau Veritas accreditation, plus OEM customer / airworthiness approvals by 26 major global suppliers and civil and military regulatory authorities. These set the company apart from most others operating in the region, giving it a capacity to deliver complex special mission modifications for both civil and military customers.

The company's customers include airlines, commuter, corporate, general aviation, rotary wing and special mission operators, governments and the military.

2. **Bell Helicopter**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Textron Inc., is an industry-leading producer of commercial and military, manned and unmanned vertical-lift aircraft and the pioneer of the revolutionary tiltrotor aircraft. Globally recognized for world-class customer service, innovation and superior quality, Bell's global workforce serves customers flying Bell aircraft in more than 120 countries.

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