



Media Update

Date: February 24, 2010
Subject: Kitchener Aero completes 4th ENG Helicopter for CTV

For Immediate Publication

Kitchener, Ontario, CANADA – Kitchener Aero Avionics (KAAV) - one of Canada's premiere avionics and special missions modifiers - is pleased to announce the completion and delivery of a new Electronic News Gathering (ENG) helicopter for the CTV television network.

This is the fourth helicopter that KAAV has modified for CTV. This current project represents another "first" for both KAAV and CTV as this is currently the only High Definition capable ENG Helicopter in the Canadian broadcast industry, and quite likely the most advanced and highly integrated ENG platforms anywhere in the world.. The new helicopter went into full service the end of January.

About this special missions mod . . .

This new CTV ENG helicopter started with a base Bell 206L-4 that was delivered to KAAV in the fall of 2010. The ENG equipment then integrated into it included a Flir UltraMedia HD Camera (Hi-Definition), MRC Strata PTX-PRO Microwave System, NAT AA97-CTV Custom Audio/ICS System, three (3) Iconix HD Cameras (Forward & Aft Talent plus a Tailcam) and two (2) Motorola 2-Way Radios.

The cockpit also received a "special missions" upgrade which included a Garmin G500H Flight Display System, which also displays ENG Video to ease Pilot workload. Other cockpit avionics includes a Garmin GNS 530W WAAS GPS/Nav/Com, King KY-196A VHF COM, Garmin GTX 327 Transponder, L3 Skywatch Traffic Systems, NAT AMS-43 Panel and FreeFlight TRA3000 Radar Altimeter System. KAAV handled the engineering, design and installation along with the avionics sales and STC for the project. The project took four months to complete.

CTV ENG Background and Comments . . .

Scott Gibson, Manager, Engineering Projects at CTV Inc. has overseen the development of all CTV ENG projects. According to Gibson, the network uses their helicopters to tune of about 600 flight hours per year. CTV Toronto operates theirs primarily for breaking news coverage, special events and the CP24 morning show traffic and news.

Each CTV ENG project is a step forward from the last. Scott says this HD unit started with the "TV gear" – "it was all new in this current build. One example is the multi-image display for the main monitor. We used much better talent cameras this time as well to improve the look. A new COFDM microwave system has been installed to give us better range for live transmission. The Evertz HD2020 is a piece of equipment that provides all the switching and processing of audio and video in the helicopter. In the past we would had several pieces of equipment to perform the functions that the 2020 is doing". According to Gibson, the ENG helicopter is a news tool that helps keep their station number one "and we are always open to using new equipment and ways of gathering and showing the news."

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The latest CTV ENG rotorcraft is based in Toronto. It replaces one that has been in continuous service since 2003. Another Bell 206-L is based in Vancouver and was placed in service in 2004.

KAAV Background

Kitchener Aero's focus is the corporate, commercial, and general aviation avionics markets. In the 30 plus years that KAAV has been in business, they have been responsible for many industry *firsts*. In addition to conventional avionics sales, installation and repair, the firm has become highly regarded as Canada's *Special Missions Specialists*. The company has developed a strong niche in helicopter avionics and provides some unique mods and STC work over and above the conventional avionics sales, service and support.

For additional information about KAAV, consult their website – www.kitcheneraero.com. Or feel welcome to call Barry Aylward at 1-800-928-4669.

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For additional information or photo copies, please contact Robert Seaman – by telephone at (705) 250-0473 or by email at rwseaman@bizav.ca



FLIR UltraMedia HD Camera (Hi-Definition) Camera System



The technical and talent suite in the aft cabin.



The Garmin G-500H Flight Display System highlights this state-of-the-art ENG cockpit.



The new CTV HD ENG Helicopter on its first flight from Kitchener Aero (KAAV) in January 2011. This is their 4th ENG project for CTV.