

## **DARA Joins Westland Helicopters Ltd In Lynx & Sea King Support**

The Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) has signed a ten-year trading agreement to support Westland Helicopters Ltd (WHL) in the repair and overhaul of Lynx and Sea King Transmission components for the UK Ministry of Defence.

The signing of the agreement comes shortly after WHL was named Prime Contractor for the Equipment Support (Air) contract, known as 'Blade-to-Blade' (B2B). With a potential value of up to £96 million, DARA's contribution to the B2B contract will underpin a significant proportion of work at its Almondbank site for many years to come.

Let on a spares inclusive basis, the contract will see DARA play an active part in demanding and managing the spares needed to carry out the work. As HM Treasury has tasked DARA with becoming fully spares inclusive by 2005, the agreement is a major step to ensuring that its spares requirements are met.

Steve Hill, DARA Chief Executive commented:

"DARA's wealth of experience on the Lynx and Sea King Transmission components will enable us to provide an outstanding spares-inclusive service to both WHL and our mutual customer, the UK MoD.

I am delighted with this major step forward in partnering with WHL, and look forward to delivering first-class support to Equipment Support (Air)."

The B2B contract aims to give the Integrated Project Teams (IPTs) responsible for the aircraft improved stability through longer-term contracts. The new arrangements will bring enhanced repair and overhaul performance, improved operational capability and reduced cost of ownership. Bert Brookes, Customer Support Director at Westland Helicopters added:

"This innovative partnership paves the way for an entirely new way of contracting with the MoD and brings with it many opportunities for Westland and DARA to improve the Repair and Overhaul process and to demonstrate the Company's ability to offer a fully categorised support service."

### **Notes to Editors:**

1. DARA was established as an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on 1 April, 1999, amalgamating the former Naval Aviation Repair Organisation (NARO) and the RAF's Maintenance Group Defence Agency (MGDA).
2. DARA was created as part of the Government's 1998 Strategic Defence Review, when it was stated that DARA should become a Trading Fund as soon as practicable. The Agency was vested as a Trading Agency of the MoD in April 2000.
3. The Agency provides deep repair, maintenance, modification and overhaul for the aircraft and aerosystems of HM Armed Forces, along with other logistics support services.
4. DARA employs approximately 5,000 staff across four UK sites and has an annual turnover of £200 million.

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