

\$30-million deal done in Australia

The Australian Helicopters' Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) has won a new AU\$30-million, five-year government emergency medical and air rescue contract for the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula area. EMQ's aircraft will be based on Horn Island and will be expected to perform governmental

work, such as police, fire and counter disaster services.

Chief executive of Australian Helicopters, Neil Shea, said: "This is an upgrading of the existing, single-engined helicopter and involves enhanced capability and crewing with 12 permanent air personnel and two additional engineers." He continued: "The upgraded aircraft

is also instrumented for response in poor weather conditions day or night. The winch will be equipped for search and rescue, and the Bell 412 will be capable of carrying a neonatal humidicrib for transport of premature or ill babies, which is good news for parents living in remote areas."

At the end of last year, Australian Helicopters won an army contract

with two Bell 412SP helicopters to replace the outdated Iroquois as part of a \$22-million civilian deal in partnership with Boeing Australia. The helicopter will be used for crash response and loadmaster training. The firm has already been operating the coastwatch helicopter surveillance and response service in the Torres Strait since 1995.

Law change clears the way



New rules in New Jersey, US have cleared the way for private helicopters to be first on the scene of major accidents – but it will cost the patients that make use

of them, and their insurers, more money. Previously in the state, the private companies could only be used to respond to a major incident if state police helicopters were unavailable.

MONOC air ambulance company in Berkeley Township will now cover southern Monmouth County and most of Ocean County, while Atlantic Health is handling portions of Sussex and Morris Counties.

Russia exports to Iran

It has been reported that Russia will export five Mi-171 transport helicopters to the Iranian Red Crescent Society in 2009. The Ulan-Ude aircraft building plant that produces the Mi-171 and Mi-171Sh signed the agreement at the end of 2007. Earlier in the year, the same plant supplied Iran with




35 Mi171s and Mi-171Shs at a cost of US\$210 million.

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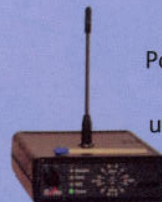


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