SAFRAN AND HAL TO FORM JV IN INDIA TO SUPPORT INDIAN HELICOPTER OPERATORS

News / Business aviation, Events / Festivals, Manufacturer

Safran Helicopter Engines and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) have agreed to establish, in India, a support centre for national and international rotorcraft customers. The joint venture will be opened in the coming months.

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This new centre will provide maintenance repair and overhaul (MRO) services for Safran TM333 and HAL Shakti engines installed on HAL-built helicopters. This scope would be enlarged to include other engines which both partners may further agree. Safran Helicopter Engines and HAL will provide their customers with a first-class service including optimized engine availability.

With a fleet of over 1,000 engines, including 250 TM333 and 250 Shakti, India's armed forces are one of the largest operators of Safran-designed helicopter engines. Shakti is the Indian designation for the Safran Ardiden 1H1, co-developed with HAL and produced under license.

T. Suvarna Raju, HAL Chairman and Managing Director said: "The venture reflects the close relationship established over many years between HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines. It places both partners on an ambitious path towards world-beating customer support in the field of engine MRO".

Image Ardiden 1H operations

The Ardiden is intended for helicopters in the 5 to 8-ton class. For its first application, the Dhruv, a first eng

Bruno Even, Safran Helicopter Engines CEO, commented "this joint venture marks a new step in the long-lasting and fruitful partnership between Safran Helicopter Engines and HAL. We are extremely proud of the continued confidence placed in us by HAL. Together we are committed to delivering world-class support to our customers, both in India and throughout the region".

The joint venture will provide the impetus for the "Made-in-India" initiative and its ambition of flying

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around 1,000 Shakti engines in India during the coming years.

Shakti is fitted to HAL's ALH/Dhruv and has been selected to power the HAL-designed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH). Ardiden 1U variant powers the new Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), a three-ton single-engine aircraft under development.

Safran has a long-standing presence in India for over 60 years in all three core markets - aerospace, defense, and security. With a workforce of more than 2,600 employees in India sharing one ambition, it encompasses an assortment of activities from design, production, maintenance, and R&D. Safran is now powering and/or equipping 65% of Indian airplanes and helicopters and is a key contributor to ‘Aadhaar' in India, world's largest biometric database.

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13 JULY 2016

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