



Era Gets FAA Approval on Quality

Era Helicopters LLC recently received FAA approval of its flight operations quality assurance (FOQA) program. E-FOQA, as it is known at Era, is the first FOQA program approved for FAR Part 135 operations.

Stated Era president Neill Osborne: "This approval is a critical component of our strategic business goal of placing safety as a key business process. Era's commitment to providing a modern fleet of aircraft, equipped with risk-reducing equipment, is the forefront of this strategy and the right thing to do for our passengers and employees. FOQA & MOQA [maintenance operations quality assurance] are but two of our data programs which are designed to address quality and safety, and provide continual improvement in providing safe working and flying environments."

As part of its commitment, Era has equipped its helicopter fleet with flight data monitoring and health & usage monitoring system devices, and will utilize Sagem's Analysis Ground Station software as its single source software provider. — MR

Abitibi Gets Fifth 350FX

Abitibi Helicopters of Calgary, Alta., recently took delivery of its fifth Honeywell LTS101-700D-2-powered 350FX2 from Heli-Lynx. It is scheduled to receive a sixth in October, and may convert additional aircraft next year.

Era Helicopters recently received FAA approval for its new flight operations quality assurance program — the first to be approved for FAR Part 135 operations. **Mike Reyno Photo**

Abitibi said it's happy with its five 350FX2s. The company has flown close to 3,500 hours on type since receiving its first FX in April 2005. **Heath Moffatt Photo**



"The 350FX has been a great performer for us, especially for the types of conditions and environments that we operate in," said Abitibi's director of maintenance, Hossein Golanbari. He said the company has flown close to 3,500 hours on its fleet of 350FXes since it took delivery of its first in April 2005.

Chief pilot Chris Bernard is also pleased with the FX2. "It's nice as a pilot to have the power reserve that is available in the 350FX2," said Bernard, adding "And, with the larger B3 tail rotor, there is still lots of tail rotor authority at altitude." — MR

Civic Helicopters Moves to Expanded Facility

Civic Helicopters of Carlsbad, Calif., is moving up. Chin Tu, Civic's president and chief flight instructor, signed a new 40-year lease with the County of San Diego for a new 10,000-square-foot hangar and 12,000 square feet of office space. The move itself took place on August 1st.

Civic has operated as a helicopter-only flight school and charter company since 1987, from the former Hughes Helicopters facility across the airport's perimeter road from main airport complex. The new hangar puts Civic right on the ramp with direct access to airside operation.

"We've outgrown our old home in our 20 years of business," said Chin, who was a test pilot for Hughes. "This new facility will allow us to better serve the growing demand of all helicopter related services in San Diego."

Civic is currently an authorized service center for Bell Textron, MD Helicopters, Robinson and Schweizer. With the additional space available, Chin said Civic is looking to add other major helicopter manufacturers' service centers. — JB