PRESS RELEASE

IMPRESSIVE UK DEBUT FOR SCHIEBEL CAMCOPTER® VTOL UAV

CAMCOPTER®, the VTOL UAV developed by Schiebel of Austria, made a highly successful and impressive UK debut on 20th and 21st January when it flew at Larkhill in UK. The trial, sponsored by HQ DRA, in front of an audience drawn from the main MODUK branches, HQ Land, and DERA, demonstrated CAMCOPTER®'s great versatility, its ease of operation, and impressive sensor quality. Mounted for the trial in a Boughton 4x4 – in which the complete systems plus its crew can be easily carried – CAMCOPTER® was deployed using IR, low light TV and its standard zoom video cameras. Both pre-planned and manually controlled missions were flown, with CAMCOPTER® consistently producing high definition real time surveillance coverage.

CAMCOPTER® was flown throughout the two day trial by WO2 SMIG Jeffers of the UAV Trials Team, Larkhill who, despite having only first seen the system on 19 January, performed like a veteran. In all some six hours of flying were completed, using two airframes, and without any malfunction. The temperature throughout the demonstration was below zero, with murky visibility, yet there were no delays and both the command and data links, now operating exclusively in the C-band, worked faultlessly.

The demonstration provided convincing evidence of the need for a VTOL element in any UAV programme, but also of the tremendous advantages of such a system in any major training environment. Even in its simplest form, CAMCOPTER® can provide minute to minute monitoring of both maneuvering forces, and of live firing exercises, with safe real time coverage of the target area, or the engaging units as required. Its applications for BATUS and other major live-firing exercise areas is obvious, and is underlined by its ease of transportation and operation using only a three man team.

In CAMCOPTER® Schiebel has a highly capable, cheap to buy and operate, VTOL UAV with almost unlimited applications. Proven tasks include general surveillance, by both day and night, mine detection – using its Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) fit – border and airfield perimeter control, anti drug operations (both on land and ship based) and a wide variety of tasks in support of the police and other government agencies. Add to this environmental monitoring duties, mapping, and the safe close range observation of natural disasters, and you have an impressive and safe UAV system ready for deployment now. Within weeks CAMCOPTER® will have its new rotary engine, giving enhanced payloads and an operating ceiling above 12,000 feet. Add to that an improved data link giving a normal operating radius out to some 100 kms and you have a powerful system with widespread applications. Little wonder then that detailed discussions are in progress with both major military and commercial customers, with numerous enquiries from the Middle and Far East, and from NATO countries.

***

For additional information contact:

Brigadier (Rtd.) Geoffrey Ransby, Schiebel Elektronische Geraete GmbH, UK
Telephone +44 (1722) 714 386, Facsimile + 44 (1722) 714 870

Mr. Hans G. Schiebel, Schiebel Elektronische Geraete GmbH, Vienna, Austria
Telephone +43 (1) 546 2611, Facsimile + 43 (1) 545 2339

Mr. Robert F. Carty, Schiebel Technology, Inc., Vint Hill, VA
Telephone + 1 (540) 351-1731, Facsimile +1 (540) 351-1736

***

Visit us at http://www.schiebel.com

***