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CAMCOPTER[®] S-100 UAS DEMONSTRATES ITS MARITIME PROWESS ONBOARD FRENCH FRIGATE IN MEDITERANEAN

Vienna, 27 October 2008 – After the successful trials on the German K130 class corvettes during the summer, the CAMCOPTER[®] S-100 Unmanned Air System (UAS) continued its maritime progress, by again demonstrating its suitability for the maritime environment including its proven automatic decking capabilities, on a French Naval Frigate.

Already tested and proven in the demanding maritime environment on a number of different sized platforms around the world, the Schiebel CAMCOPTER[®] S-100 was recently chosen by DCNS for trials. The two weeks of planned trials commenced on a steel barge, just 22 m long by 14 m wide and towed 60 m behind a 41 m ocean going tug in the Atlantic Ocean off Brest for 4 days, in northern France in seas exceeding sea state 3 at times.

Following this very successful proving phase, both companies then moved to Toulon in Southern France and conducted 3 days of continuous testing on board the French Navy frigate “Montcalm” in the Mediterranean. It gave the Schiebel team the opportunity to again demonstrate its own proven automatic launch and recovery capability of this unique and unrivalled VTOL UAS to the French Navy. In addition, DCNS had the opportunity to use the S-100 as the platform to test their newly developed automatic decking device.

Over the 2 weeks, the CAMCOPTER[®] S-100 system successfully flew almost 8 hours in total, conducted 49 deck landings in conditions up to sea state 3 with up to 8 degrees of pitch and roll at times. The company is very pleased with the progress of the CAMCOPTER[®] S-100 UAS from seagoing vessels and anticipates that the eventual inclusion of the DCNS decking system will enhance its already impressive capability.

About Schiebel:

Founded in 1951, the Vienna-based Schiebel Group of companies focuses on the development, testing and production of state-of-the-art mine detection equipment and the acclaimed CAMCOPTER[®] S-100 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System. Schiebel has built an international reputation for producing quality defence and humanitarian products, which are backed by exceptional after-sales service and support. All products are quality controlled to meet ISO 9001 standards. With headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Schiebel now maintains production facilities in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, and Abu Dhabi, UAE, as well as offices in Warrenton, VA, USA, and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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About the CAMCOPTER® S-100:

Schiebel's latest CAMCOPTER® S-100 UAV System has been developed to carry various sensors for both military and civilian applications. The Aerial Vehicle is launched automatically via Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL), eliminating the need for a prepared area or additional launch and recovery equipment. It navigates via pre-programmed GPS waypoints, or can be operated manually through a simple, yet highly stable, flight control system. The CAMCOPTER® S-100, like its predecessor, is capable of landing on helicopter deck-equipped ships without the use of additional landing equipment. Its AV fuselage is a carbon fibre monocoque providing maximum capacity for a wide range of payload/endurance combinations. In a standard configuration, the AV is capable of carrying a 55 lbs payload for up to 6 hours.

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