

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## CHELTON FLIGHT SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES

### HELICOPTER AUTOPILOT

**Boise, ID** – Chelton Flight Systems, part of the Cobham Avionics & Surveillance Division, has completed engineering flight testing of an advanced new autopilot and stability augmentation system (SAS) for helicopters. The all-digital design supports all conventional autopilot modes plus Chelton Flight System's unique highway-in-the-sky

roll and pitch steering when optionally coupled to Chelton's synthetic vision EFIS.

Designed from the ground up for helicopters, the product will be marketed as the Chelton HeliSAS™.

HeliSAS is a full-authority system based on a dual-processor, fail-passive architecture that can be fitted to any hydraulic-control helicopter. It is the result of a NASA research program lead by flight control expert and helicopter test pilot Roger Hoh. The innovative design is a direct outgrowth of research conducted for the U.S. Army Aeroflightdynamics Directorate using NASA simulators and the Canadian National Research Council variable stability Bell 205 helicopter. The result is a system that weighs less than twelve pounds and, since the control system need not be disassembled, can be installed in under 40 hours.

“We are very pleased with the progress of our development program,” says Hoh. “The autopilot incorporates GPS steering and will track VOR courses or an ILS to minimums, The Attitude-Command-Attitude-Hold SAS greatly facilitates low-speed and hover operations, especially in severely degraded visibility and in winds and turbulence.

Hands-off hover is possible, and demonstrations in test aircraft have shown that the SAS allows fixed-wing pilots with no helicopter experience to takeoff, hover, perform pedal turns, and land.” The system is designed to be operational from engine start to shutdown. Nearly 200 hours of engineering flight test time have been accomplished at this time.

“With our dominance in the helicopter EFIS market, the addition of an autopilot is a natural,” says David Thomas, Chelton Flight System’s Rotorcraft Sales Manager. “With or without the EFIS, the HeliSAS will dramatically reduce pilot workload for cross country or demanding special mission applications. Most helicopters don’t have autopilots because of cost and weight,” says Thomas, “and Chelton is about to change that.”

FAA certification activities have been ongoing for over two years and approval is expected in the first quarter of 2007. The initial STC will be on the Robinson R-44 with Bell 206/407 and Eurocopter AS350/355 following shortly thereafter. Pricing is undetermined at this time but is expected to be about half that of competitive products.

Chelton Flight Systems is part of the Cobham Avionics & Surveillance Division and is the manufacturer of the world’s first FAA-certified synthetic vision EFIS, which is now STCd on over 700 airplane and helicopter models.

**Cobham plc** - with five technology divisions and one in a service sector, Cobham designs and manufactures equipment, specialized systems and components for the aerospace, defense, communications, law enforcement and national security markets and operates, maintains and modifies aircraft particularly in relation to special mission flight operations

For more information on HeliSAS, visit [www.cheltonflightsystems.com/HeliSAS](http://www.cheltonflightsystems.com/HeliSAS) or call 208-389-9959.

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