

SOFEMA delivers a Dauphin helicopter To the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Press release

Levallois, October 30th 2014 - As part of its Renovation activity , SOFEMA completely refurbished and equipped an AS 365 N2 Dauphin helicopter for the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. This acquisition has enabled the country to create the National Police's first helicopter unit.

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire needed a transport platform to monitor and police its territory, as well as be able to conduct medical evacuation operations. Following a review of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire's technical requirements, SOFEMA offered to provide a SA 365 N2 helicopter, a member of the Dauphin family. After validation of the customer, the twin-engine aircraft was completely renovated, bespoke equipment was installed and it was painted in the colours of the National Police. This commercial operation, which lasted over six months from May to October 2014, was conducted with precision by SOFEMA engineers who made all the technical controls necessary to ensure the optimal functioning of the aircraft. Flight tests were organised in Ostend in Belgium before it was transported from the Port of Le Havre to Abidjan. A technical acceptance flight in Abidjan finalised this operation.

« SOFEMA provided its expertise to the Ivorian national police and delivered an aircraft with optimal safety standards and best technical capabilities, » commented Frédéric Costes, Operational Support Manager at SOFEMA. "Each procedure was carefully performed to meet our customer's requests under tight deadline, demonstrating SOFEMA's excellence in providing high-quality equipment around the world. A perfect understanding of customers' needs, combined with accurately-led renovation operations, makes SOFEMA a trusted partner».

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The first Dauphin models were designed in the 70's to succeed to the Alouette III. Since its introduction, several major variations and specialised versions have been developed to make it the preferred aircraft of air forces around the world, including the Royal Navy and the French Navy. Known for its modernity, this medium-weight multipurpose twin-engine helicopter is characterized by its aerodynamic profile. Unlike previous models for military operations for SAR missions, the Dauphin SA 365 N2 was developed for civil and public operators such as police, coastguards and firefighters flying in the 90's. The SA 365 N2 version introduced the upgraded 549 kW (737 shp) Arriel 1C2 turbo shafts and was designed to support a maximum take-off weight of 4,226 kg (≈9,370 lb).

