



## **Bell Signs Contract to Build Flight Training Devices for the Czech Republic**

*Selects key subcontractors for production*

**PRAGUE (Dec. 13, 2021)** - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, has signed a contract with the U.S. Government to build the AH-1Z Flight Training Device for the Czech Republic's new helicopter fleet. The delivery of training devices will play a key role integrating new H-1 helicopters into the Czech Air Force.

The Flight Training Device (FTD) will be used for simulation and training purposes for prospective pilots of the combined AH-1Z and UH-1Y fleet. The delivery of the training device by Bell ensures the continuous presence of Bell's expertise throughout the Czech Air Force's helicopter modernization program.

"The Flight Training Device will provide Czech operators with the perfect tools for familiarizing themselves with their new H-1 helicopters," says Mike Deslatte, Bell H-1 vice president and program director. "The FTD for the Czech Air Force will ensure training activities progress smoothly in line with the delivery of the aircraft themselves."

Bell selected FlightSafety International and VR Group as key subcontractors. FlightSafety International, a world leader in the design, manufacture and support of flight simulators, visual systems and displays, will provide hardware and software products for simulation training, including the visual display system and control loading system.

"FlightSafety is proud to continue the long-standing collaboration with Bell supporting the H-1 program," said Michael Vercio, senior vice president of simulation systems at FlightSafety. "The Czech Flight Training Device gives us another opportunity to provide a world-class training solution to a new set of pilots."

VR Group, a Czech company, has deep expertise in simulation technologies and will provide some of the moving models for the visual database system for the Czech H-1 FTD. VR Group will also be responsible for maintenance and support for the device after delivery. VR Group's participation underlines the business opportunities brought to local Czech companies and organizations by Bell's provision of the Czech Republic's new helicopter fleet.

"Working with Bell on the delivery and maintenance of the Flight Training Device for the Czech Republic's new helicopter fleet opens up the possibility for us to further strengthen our leading long-term role in the country's Air Force simulation capabilities," said Ivo Gamba, VR Group technical director. "As one of the Czech Republic's leading providers of defense training solutions, we are extremely excited to play our part in providing the FTD in cooperation with the team at Bell. Our local expertise creates a device of great benefit to Czech helicopter operatives."

Production for the Czech Republic's new H-1 helicopter fleet is proceeding on schedule, with Bell's Amarillo Assembly Center recently receiving the first UH-1Y cabin for the Czech fleet. Bell anticipates that production and delivery of the Czech Republic's new AH-1Z and UH-1Y aircraft will be complete by 2023.

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## **ABOUT VR GROUP**

VR Group, a.s. is a leading Czech provider of comprehensive training solutions for armed forces, security forces and crisis management authorities. Thanks to its twenty-year experience in development, implementation and operation of training solutions for armed and security forces, VR Group, a.s. can offer cutting-edge training solutions. The company is a subsidiary of LOM PRAHA government enterprise, established by the Czech Republic Ministry of Defence.

## **About FlightSafety International**

FlightSafety International is the world's premier professional aviation training company and supplier of flight simulators, visual systems and displays to commercial, government and military organizations. The company provides training for pilots, technicians and other aviation professionals from 167 countries and independent territories. FlightSafety operates the world's largest fleet of advanced full-flight simulators at Learning Centers and training locations in the United States, Canada, France and the United Kingdom. For more details, please visit [flightsafety.com](http://flightsafety.com).

## **ABOUT BELL**

Thinking above and beyond is what we do. For more than 85 years, we've been reimagining the experience of flight – and where it can take us. We are pioneers. We were the first to break the sound barrier and to certify a commercial helicopter. We were a part of NASA's first lunar mission and brought advanced tiltrotor systems to market. Today, we're defining the future of advanced air mobility. Headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas – as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Textron Inc.,- we have strategic locations around the globe. And with nearly one quarter of our workforce having served, helping our military achieve their missions is a passion of ours. Above all, our breakthrough innovations deliver exceptional experiences to our customers. Efficiently. Reliably. And always, with safety at the forefront.

## **ABOUT TEXTRON INC.**

Textron Inc. is a multi-industry company that leverages its global network of aircraft, defense, industrial and finance businesses to provide customers with innovative solutions and services. Textron is known around the world for its powerful brands such as Bell, Cessna, Beechcraft, Hawker, Jacobsen, Kautex, Lycoming, E-Z-GO, Arctic Cat, Textron Systems, and TRU Simulation + Training. For more information, visit: [www.textron.com](http://www.textron.com).

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