First H145 for utility missions in the U.S. delivered to San Diego Gas & Electric

H145’s safety and mission versatility to support construction and maintenance of powerlines in Southern California.

Grand Prairie, Texas, 18 April 2018 – Airbus Helicopters Inc. has delivered a new Airbus H145 to San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), a major Southern California public utility company, which has put the aircraft to use supporting its vast electric transmission and distribution network.

This helicopter is the first H145 in utility service in the U.S. Other operations of the modern twin-engine helicopter include law enforcement, air medical transport, offshore oil & gas, and Private Business Aviation.

SDG&E selected the H145 for its missions after an extensive review of the latest helicopter models and technology available that would meet the company’s challenging requirements, which include heavy loads, range and high/hot operations. The company uses helicopters for stringing power lines, setting poles, transporting maintenance crews to remote locations and patrolling its vast power line network.

“We wanted to find an aircraft suited for all of our missions with the primary concern being the safety margins,” said Jesse Thrush, SDG&E Aviation Analyst. “The H145 was chosen because of the twin engines, power margins, flight controls, the Helionix avionics suite and the advanced autopilot.”

“The highly versatile Airbus H145 is quickly becoming one of the most popular helicopters in North America, and the entire Airbus organization greatly appreciates this endorsement of our aircraft by an outstanding company like San Diego Gas & Electric,” said Chris Emerson, President of Airbus Helicopters Inc. “Our team looks forward to supporting SDG&E and its mission and providing you with outstanding service.”

The H145 has a roomy cabin that can seat eight or more passengers. It features the Airbus Helicopters developed Helionix avionics, including a standard 4-axis digital Automatic Flight Control System for reduced pilot workload and improved situational awareness. The Turbomeca Arriel 2E engines, with dual channel FADEC, generate 951 shaft horsepower for take-off and allow improved hover and one-engine inoperative performance, as well as increased maximum gross weight capability. The Fenestron enclosed tail rotor dramatically reduces noise levels.

SDG&E is a regulated electricity and natural gas utility that provides service to San Diego County and southern Orange County in southwestern California. Its service area spans 4,100
Press Release

square miles and includes more than 3.3 million consumers, 1.4 million electric meters, and more than 840,000 natural gas meters. SDG&E is owned by Sempra Energy, a Fortune 500 energy services holding company based in San Diego.

Airbus Helicopters Inc. is the leading provider of civil and commercial helicopters in the U.S. The company is based in Grand Prairie, TX, where it operates helicopter completion, paint, and MRO facilities, performs flight test and engineering support, and flight and maintenance training for customers. The Columbus, MS, plant produces UH-72A Lakota helicopters for the U.S. Army and the H125 for the civil market.

About Airbus
Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2017 it generated reported revenues of € 67 billion – or € 59 billion restated for IFRS 15 - and employed a workforce of around 129,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners from 100 to more than 600 seats. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world’s leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Media contacts
Bob Cox 01 972-641-3525 bob.cox@airbus.com
Erin Callender +33 442 855 131 erin.callender@airbus.com