

Media Release

POLAIR Queensland Introduces Innovative Solution for Aircraft Connectivity

(2025 December 18) The Queensland Police Service (Australia) Police Air Operations (POLAIR) has developed a proof of concept for the use of low earth orbit satellite services to support other video downlinking systems installed on the POLAIR Bell 429 helicopters.

The positioning of the satellite transceivers on POLAIR helicopters has been a challenge due to interference from the main rotor disk of the aircraft and with the flight pattern and orbit angle of the aircraft not always being conducive to maintaining connectivity.

The QPS and partner organisations have designed an innovative dual bracket system for the transceiver. Test flights in 2025 included a series of scenario-based flights in areas where traditional telecommunication infrastructure was limited. The test flights delivered uninterrupted video downlinking and connectivity for use with the mission role equipment in the aircraft, which validated the bracket design and positioning of the transceivers on the POLAIR Bell 429.

The transceiver bracket is fitted to the aircraft under an Engineering Order in Australia.

Quotes

Chief Inspector Daniel Bust, Manager, Police Air Operations –

The development of this innovative solution will ensure the POLAIR aircraft continue to deliver crucial situational awareness to frontline police at all locations across Queensland.

