

Everything We Do Flies

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By Ashley M. Slaybaugh, Sikorsky Global Helicopters

Schweizer Aircraft Corporation has been a leader in the design and manufacture of commercial and military aircraft since 1939. Since that time, Schweizer Aircraft has manufactured more than 6,000 aircraft and become known worldwide for its sailplanes, agricultural aircraft, helicopters, surveillance aircraft and unmanned vehicles. In February 2009, Sikorsky Aircraft, Schweizer's parent company, announced the formation of its new Sikorsky Global Helicopters Unit.

The Sikorsky Global Helicopters Unit product and service lines are comprised of the S-300C, S-300C*Bi*, S-333 and S-434 helicopter platforms, current Sikorsky helicopter platforms S-76, S-92 and H-92 and all commercial operations of Keystone Helicopter Corporation and Associated Aircraft Group (AAG). Within this Unit, the S-300 series, S-333 and S-434 products will make up the Light Helicopter Division of Sikorsky Global Helicopters. Schweizer will remain an entity at its location in Horseheads, NY.

This initiative solidifies the company's globalization goal, while sharpening its business unit focus on specific customer segments. It also gives its products the impetus needed to become an international force in aviation sales through Sikorsky's brand recognition and worldwide sales network.

Sikorsky Global Helicopters' Light Helicopter Division includes the re-branded S-300C, S-300C*Bi*, S-333 and S-434 helicopter platforms. These models are primarily used for commercial and military training, light utility, law enforcement patrol, agriculture and pipeline/powerline patrol. Known for durability and safety, these aircraft are operated in more than 70 countries. The S-300C*Bi* light piston helicopter in particular continues to be a market leader in the training sector.

Excellent safety and crashworthiness records have established a new standard for single-engine helicopters and set the S-333 helicopter apart from the field. Its drive system has been proven during more than 20 million flight hours. The S-333 combines comfortable, first-class aesthetics with proven mechanical durability and efficiency. It features a spacious cabin for three or four person crews, 360° visibility, low cockpit noise, and reduced pilot workload and fatigue factors. Performance features include excellent speed, range, endurance and hover capabilities, precise maneuverability, high stability, wide center-of-gravity envelope and responsive controls.

The S-333 helicopter also features superior flexibility and can be reconfigured to meet the demands of multiple missions. Optional configurations for patrol requirements include additional equipment such as an infrared system, searchlight, multi-band radio, cargo hook kit and a Night Vision Imaging System compatible cockpit.

The S-333 helicopter's low operating costs, safety record and mission suitability will be enhanced further with the addition of the S-434 helicopter. Future plans for this aircraft include FAA certification and deliveries in 2011. Built on the S-333 platform, with additional technology from the Fire Scout Vertical Takeoff Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, the S-434 helicopter will allow operators to fly faster and farther, and carry more.

Advancements on the S-434 helicopter include a four-bladed rotor system, larger fuel tank, lower vibration, increased hover performance, rugged construction, 10-knot cruise speed increase and one of the highest useful loads in its class. It combines the best of both mission and training capabilities for better overall mission performance and endurance, even in cold weather and night flight operations.

Reconnaissance aircraft produced by Schweizer Aircraft Corp. include the SA 2-37BTM and the SA 3-38BTM. The SA 2-37B has a 300-400 pound payload, while the SA 3-38B has an 800 pound payload. Both of these fixed-wing aircraft have low operational costs and noise signatures, making them excellent in the surveillance and patrol markets.

The Horseheads location also serves as Sikorsky Aircraft's rapid-prototyping facility. This business sector's accomplishments include the X2 TECHNOLOGY™ demonstrator, which completed its first flight on Aug. 27, 2008. Key technologies used by the X2 Technology demonstrator include a fly-by-wire control system, active vibration control, and an advanced coaxial rotor system design. This technology potentially enables the X2 Technology demonstrator to cruise at 250 knots, while maintaining desirable traits of helicopter flight, including low speed handling and efficient hovering. X2 Technology represents cutting-edge aviation innovation that can be applied to a variety of aircraft in the future.

In addition to its helicopter and fixed-wing business sectors, Sikorsky Aircraft's Military Derivations Completion Center also operates in Horseheads. Final assembly, completions, flight tests and special mission equipment are all part of the services available at the center.

For the Light Helicopter Division, success in the law enforcement aviation field is built on a combination of quality, economical aircraft and reliable support. Both its fixed-wing and rotary product lines are suitable for use in law enforcement; its helicopters, in particular, have served as patrol aircraft for more than 40 years.

Despite increasing budget challenges, demand continues from law enforcement operators in a variety of fields, including border surveillance, maritime and coastal patrol, signals intercept, radar detection and pollution detection control. As budgets are cut, efficiency and direct operating costs become paramount in decision-making processes. Municipal governments are forced to find economical solutions as demand on their resources increases. Sikorsky Global Helicopters' line of smaller aircraft continues to meet this need. With rising demand for "workhorse" helicopters, the S-300CBi, S-300C, and S-333 helicopters remain cost-effective solutions featuring low base prices and direct operating costs.

In addition to providing exceptional products, supporting the customer after purchase is equally important. Therefore, customer support at the Light Helicopter Division continues to strive for excellence. Achievements include rapid response time for all inquiries, a 24/7-AOG phone number, and increased training opportunities for operators and maintenance workers.

Sikorsky Global Helicopters' Light Helicopter Division serves many markets in today's aerospace industry with its wide range of products and dedication to meeting the changing technological demands of the global aerospace community. A skilled workforce, outstanding engineering and manufacturing capabilities and a commitment to total quality set us apart. The competitive global marketplace of the 21st century demands products with outstanding performance, quality and value – characteristics exemplified in all our proprietary products. Everything we do flies.