**Sikorsky X2 Technology™ Program Relocates to Florida to Prepare for High-Speed Test Flights**

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – Aiming to achieve the highest speed ever recorded for a helicopter, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.’s X2 Technology™ demonstrator has relocated to the company’s Florida flight facility as it begins the next phases of testing in the experimental program.

As the program continues to expand its flight envelope, it has also been recognized by two mainstream media publications for its innovative technology. Popular Mechanics has named the X2 Technology program as a winner of a 2009 Breakthrough Award, while Popular Science has identified it as a “2009 The Best of What’s New” award winner.

The X2 Technology demonstrator combines an integrated suite of technologies intended to advance the state-of-the-art, counter-rotating coaxial rotor helicopter. It is designed to demonstrate a helicopter can cruise comfortably at 250 knots while retaining such desirable attributes as excellent low speed handling, efficient hovering, and a seamless and simple transition to high speed.

For the past three years, the X2 Technology demonstrator program has been located at the Sikorsky Global Helicopters operation in Horseheads, New York, where the demonstrator achieved first flight last year.

“The move to Sikorsky’s West Palm Beach facility signifies a major turning point in this program as we have officially concluded Phase One testing and the configuration build-out to take the demonstrator to the maximum initial speed of over 50 knots,” said Jim Kagdis, Program Manager, Sikorsky Advanced Programs.

“Now we will fully test the integrated system to include the coaxial main rotor dynamic system with pusher propeller, and we’ll look to validate the key performance parameters of high speed, low noise, low vibration and low pilot workload. We have a lot of work ahead of us, and the Florida facility will provide ample room and a climate that will serve this program well as it moves toward the 250-knot milestone,” Kagdis said.

Prior to its relocation to Florida, the X2 demonstrator achieved another milestone with the completion of two test flights that included full engagement of the distinctive propeller for the first time.

In one hour of testing conducted in two flights, the aircraft flew at speeds reaching 52 knots in one test and 42 knots with the propeller providing forward thrust in the second flight. Kevin Bredenbeck, Director of Tests for Sikorsky and Chief Test Pilot for the X2 Technology program, accomplished the flights on June 30.

“Since that test, the demonstrator has taken its first flights”out of the yard,” leaving the WPB facility for extended flights that reached 80 and 106 knots.

Sikorsky is maturing this technology in preparation for emerging missions including rapid air medical response for the civil market and reconnaissance, attack, and special operations missions for the military market.

“The program is progressing extremely well both technologically and from a future applicability standpoint,” said Mark Miller, Vice President of Research and Engineering at Sikorsky. “Certainly we’ve got much more to do, but interest continues to grow among both the military and commercial sectors in how this technology might improve current operations and enable new missions that today are simply not possible with the current helicopter flight limitations. These are exciting times.”

**Sikorsky Sponsors 2009 Golden Helix Award**

Lieutenant General Emerson Gardner is the 2009 recipient of the Naval Helicopter Association’s Golden Helix Award, sponsored by Sikorsky Aircraft.

The award is presented to an active duty Rotary Wing Naval Aviator (USN, USCG, USMC) with the earliest date of designation as a Naval Helicopter Pilot and is held by that individual until their retirement.

In addition to the personal award, Lieutenant General Gardner name will be added to the perpetual trophy which resides in the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla.