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Robinson Delivers First Digital ENG Newscopter

Torrance, CA — Robinson delivered its first digitally equipped R44 Newscopter this month to Metro Networks. This helicopter is Metro's ninth R44 and Robinson's 29th ENG helicopter.

The new digital Newscopter comes equipped with a 360° continuous rotation 5-axis gyro-stabilized camera system with an Ikegami HL-59WNA digital camera and Canon 21x lens. This high-resolution broadcast camera system comes with a redesigned lightweight, ergonomic laptop control console designed specifically for the R44.

"Everyone is asking for a digital platform," admits Steve Lentz, Vice President of Aviation for Metro Networks. "Robinsons are making helicopter ENG a profitable program for us. We've been able to open markets that wouldn't have been able to have a helicopter because of the R44's affordability. This new system could create even more demand."

Robinson produced the new camera system completely in house to control development, quality, and production. The compact, light Ikegami digital camera was chosen and the gimbal redesigned for a perfect fit. Additionally, the control console was redesigned to house the digital remote control and Robinson extras, including integrated transmit, intercom and video switches.

With the higher resolution and broadcast-quality picture, the digital system offers ease of precision operations through the digitally controlled gimbal. The new digital system is lighter, easier to maintain, and more tolerant of extreme temperature changes and harsher environments.

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters and builds the two-seat Model R22 and the four-seat Model R44. Robinson helicopters are used throughout the world for a variety of private, business, and commercial operations. For more information, visit the website at www.robinsonheli.com.

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