



New Empennage for R66 Turbine Helicopters Receives FAA Approval

Robinson Helicopter Company announces FAA certification of a new empennage configuration for the R66 Turbine. Following years of development and testing, the new empennage provides enhanced roll stability during high-speed flight. The configuration replaces the existing 2,000-hour TBO horizontal stabilizer with a 4,000-hour TBO symmetrical horizontal stabilizer mounted on the tailcone and positioned forward of the original.

The new empennage configuration is standard on all new production FAA-registered R66 Turbine helicopters and will include a new 4,000-hour TBO tailcone. Commencing with R66 S/N 1279, Robinson will begin delivering FAA-registered R66 production aircraft with the new empennage and tailcone.

Robinson is working with civil aviation authorities around the world to obtain foreign validations. As these regulatory approvals are obtained, foreign-registered R66s will be delivered with the new empennage.

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Robinson Dealer Elected HAI Chair



Nicole Battjes, owner of the Robinson R44 dealership Rainbow Helicopters (Hawaii, USA), was elected to a one-year term as Chair of Helicopter Association International's (HAI) Board of Directors. Her term started on July 1st.

Nicole personifies the saying "if you want something done, ask a busy person." The mother of a newborn and a toddler, Nicole is Rainbow's CEO, director of operations, check pilot, and flight instructor. She readily credits her husband, extended family, and a team of 50 employees for making it all possible. Nicole brings a great desire to give back to the industry and a vast amount of experience to the Chair.

Nicole has 3500 hours as a pilot and is a member of numerous organizations including Women in Aviation International, the Whirly Girls, and the Ninety-Nines. Nicole joined HAI in 2009 and has been to every Heli-Expo since then. In 2020, Nicole was elected to the HAI Board of Directors and directed the association's creation of a strategic roadmap. She was elected to a second term on the Board in 2023. As HAI Chair, she intends to focus on helping operators implement safety management systems, and broadening HAI's brand from strictly helicopters to an association for all people and aircraft involved in vertical lift, manned and unmanned.

Based at Honolulu International Airport (PHNL), Rainbow Helicopters has six Robinson R44s and two Airbus AStars. The company's 12 pilots fly up to 32 flights a day, including aerial tours of Oahu, private charters, photography and videography flights, and flight instruction.

Congratulations Nicole.

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Robinson Operators Aid Maui Wildfire Victims

In the aftermath of the Maui wildfires, Robinson's Hawaiian operators independently volunteered to collect donations and to ferry essential supplies to Maui. Rainbow Helicopters focused on mothers and infants, filling up one R44 with an impressive 87 containers of baby formula.

Mauna Loa Helicopters' two R66s completed 20 flights in three days ferrying tents, sleeping bags, blankets, and other essentials. The unity of helicopter operators, donors, and volunteers demonstrates Hawaii's unwavering *ohana* spirit and cultural strength.



Mauna Loa Helicopters' hangar overflowed with donations

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Sky3 NBC Las Vegas Upgrades to Robinson R66 Newscopter

In June, television station KSNV in Las Vegas, Nevada, upgraded their R44 Newscopter to a Robinson R66 Newscopter. Station KSNV provides news coverage for the fast-growing Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise metropolitan area. Dubbed Sky3, the Electronic News Gathering (ENG) helicopter is owned and operated by SKY Helicopters, a Robinson dealer located in Garland, Texas. SKY Helicopters operated a Robinson R44 Newscopter in Las Vegas since 2011. While the R44 served commendably, the station elected to upgrade to the R66 due to the helicopter's ENG technology and power. SKY Helicopters operates 16 ENG helicopters, a mix of R66s and R44s, for TV stations across the United States.

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Dealer Highlight - Importavia

Importavia, Robinson's longtime dealer in Guatemala, was founded by Alberto Molina and his wife Sonia Cornado. Alberto met Frank Robinson in the early 1970s at Hughes Aircraft in the days before Robinson Helicopter Company. Although Alberto passed away in 2016, Importavia continues with Sonia and son Tito Molina. At 82-years-old, Sonia still manages the company's books. Tito manages the day-to-day operations and upholds his father's legacy of exceptional customer service. Importavia has grown into a premier team of 24 professionals who are dedicated to excellent care, repair, and helicopter maintenance.

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