

FIRE-MAX Helitanker: A New Firefighting Capability for the K-MAX

BLOOMFIELD, Conn. (February 6, 2005) - - The Helicopter Division of Kaman Aerospace (Booth 3019) plans to display one of the two new fire-fighting systems for the K-MAX helicopter that have been designed and manufactured by Kawak Aviation Technologies, Bend, Ore., and Isolair, Inc., Troutdale, Ore., for use by K-MAX operators.

The fire-fighting equipment consists of a 700-gallon conformal, fixed-tank system equipped with hydraulic-powered hover refill pumps. Kawak and Isolair have each developed their own configuration, with the overall objective of providing easy installation and quick refills in order to maximize aerial firefighting effectiveness for operators around the world. An existing 50-horsepower accessories pad on the transmission will power the tank's hydraulic systems. Kawak's tank will be on display at Kaman Aerospace's booth at Heli-Expo. Isolair will be displaying their tank in their booth (2528).

The K-MAX is called "FIRE MAX" when a fixed tank system is installed. The systems will soon be undergoing testing by its manufacturers and is expected to be available for the 2005 fire season. Roger Wassmuth, director of K-MAX marketing and business development, said, "Once the fixed tank systems are available, we look forward to seeing it in field operations. Existing operators can work directly with Kawak or Isolair to obtain the system for their aircraft."

K-MAX is specifically designed for vertical reference flight, an important feature for external load work. It has a 5,000-pound (2268kg) on-the-hook lift capacity at 8,000 feet of altitude (2446 meters) and 6,000 pounds (2772 kg) on-the-hook at lower altitudes. K-MAX is capable of precisely placing critical supplies, equipment or water in confined or inaccessible areas.

Kaman Aerospace Corp., a subsidiary of Kaman Corp. (NASDAQ:KAMNA), comprises three divisions. In addition to the Helicopter Division, which markets the K-MAX and SH-2G Super Seasprite helicopters, are the Aerostructures Division, which manufactures aircraft structures and components, and the Fuzing Division, which manufactures safe, arm and fuzing devices for bomb and missile systems. Kaman Aerospace and Kamatics Corp., which designs and manufactures proprietary precision bearings for commercial and military aircraft applications, make up the four principal elements of Kaman's Aerospace segment.

Kaman Corp., based in Bloomfield, Conn., conducts business in the aerospace, industrial distribution and music markets.

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