



Transatlantic Cooperation: Leonardo and Boeing Combine Experience and Technology for the U.S. Army

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Leonardo and **Boeing** have announced a collaboration to meet the requirements of the **U.S. Army Flight School Next**, the program aimed at defining the next generation of **systems and platforms for training American military pilots**. The joint proposal offers a **turnkey integrated solution**, based on proven technologies and a management model that ensures **efficiency, reliability, and operational continuity**.

The agreement combines the **complementary experiences** of the two companies: **Boeing**, with a solid tradition in **training and operational support for the U.S. Army**, and **Leonardo**, with the training helicopter **AW119T**, already successfully employed in the American and international markets. The goal is to offer a **realistic, modular, and technologically advanced training system**, in line with the new digital training needs of the U.S. Army.

As stated by **John Chicoli**, Senior Director of **Boeing Global Services**, “**two industry leaders join forces to offer the U.S. Army an integrated, innovative, and long-term solution**, capable of enhancing the readiness and quality of pilot training for the entire duration of the program.”

AW119T: A Proven and Flexible Platform

A central element of the proposal is the **AW119T**, a **single-engine training helicopter** that has accumulated **over 100,000 flight hours**, including more than **16,000 under instrument flight rules (IFR)** and **over 40,000 autorotation landings**. The model is already adopted by the **U.S. Navy** for training its pilots and supported by a **consolidated logistics network**, which includes **130 operational units** and a **technical assistance center in Florida**, located near the **U.S. Army base at Fort Rucker (Alabama)**, the main training hub for American military aviation.

According to **Clyde Woltman**, CEO of **Leonardo Helicopters U.S.**, “**the AW119T is a proven platform** that supports the training of military pilots in the United States every day. **The collaboration with Boeing** allows us to offer the U.S. Army **capabilities and value over time** through the Flight School Next program.”

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Leonardo and Boeing

The helicopter features **advanced safety characteristics**, such as **reinforced cabin and tanks**, the ability to perform **autorotation landings**, and training dedicated to **in-flight emergency management**. All this contributes to a **reduced risk profile** and **immediate full operability**, in line with the U.S. Army's need for ready and high-performance training tools.

Digital Training and Operational Advantages

The **Boeing-Leonardo** proposal includes a **comprehensive training system**, which includes **helicopters, simulators, instructors, spare parts, and maintenance**, for an **integrated, flexible, and scalable offer**.

The training approach is **competency-based** and involves a **multi-phase learning path**, combining **real flights, virtual simulations, digital instructors, and data analysis**. This

methodology allows for **customizing pilot training**, improving efficiency, and **optimizing the use of flight hours**, ensuring a **better balance between costs and operational results**.

From a logistical perspective, the model includes **optimized maintenance programs**, **adaptive training scheduling**, and **automated logistics**, with the aim of **maximizing aircraft availability** and **reducing downtime**. The integration of **predictive analytics** for preventive maintenance further strengthens the **overall safety and efficiency of the system**.

On the industrial side, **Boeing** provides its experience in **mission services and support for AH-64 Apache helicopters**, as well as established expertise in **system integration, simulation, and instructor program development**. **Leonardo**, for its part, brings the **production capacity of the AW119T** and a **fully operational technical support network** in the United States.

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AH-64 Apache Helicopter

The collaboration fits within the framework of **transatlantic industrial cooperation**, demonstrating how the union of **European technological excellence** and **American operational capability** can generate **competitive and innovative solutions** for the defense sector.

With this initiative, **Leonardo and Boeing** aim to **consolidate their presence in the U.S. market** and contribute to defining **new standards for global military helicopter training**, where **advanced simulation, real platforms, and integrated digital management** represent the key to **training the pilots of the future**.

News link: <https://www.leonardo.com/it/press-release-detail/-/detail/13-10-2025-boeing-and-leonardo-partner-for-us-army-flight-school-next-contract?f=%2Fhome>