



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MD Helicopters and Van Horn Aviation Debut New Composite Rotor Blades

MESA, Arizona, March 6, 2011 - MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI), a leading manufacturer of commercial and military helicopters, and Van Horn Aviation, L.L.C. (Van Horn) are demonstrating co-developed composite main rotor blades for the MD 530F® aircraft in Booths 1618 (MDHI) and 1521 at Heli-Expo 2011, held March 5th – 8th at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

The new blades will begin initial flight testing in March 2011, and are expected to receive FAA Supplemental Type Certification (STC) in Q4 of 2011. Once certified on the MD 530F, MD Helicopters and Van Horn Aviation plan to certify the blade for the MD 520N® and a shorter version for the MD 500D® and MD 500E® models.

The design advantages of these new blades include:

- Life limit increased from 3,430 to 10,000 hours
- Decreased aircraft fuel burn rates
- Reduced aircraft acoustical noise signature
- Increased aircraft internal gross weight to 3350 pounds
- Reduced Direct Operating Costs
- Easier tracking and balancing

MDHI and Van Horn plan to continue to this co-development relationship in order to supply tail rotor blades for the MD 500D, MD 500E, and MD 530F Helicopters in the future.

About MD Helicopters, Inc.:

MD Helicopters, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of commercial and military helicopters. The MDHI family of rotorcraft is world renowned for its value, versatility and performance. The MD Helicopters family includes the twin-engine MD Explorer®, and single engine versions of the MD 600N®, MD 520N®, MD 500E® and MD 530F®. The NOTAR® system for anti-torque control is used exclusively by MD Helicopters. The Company is based in Mesa, AZ. For more information about MDHI visit <http://www.mdhelicopters.com>.



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About Patriarch Partners LLC

Patriarch Partners, LLC, is a private equity firm and holding company managing 74 companies with annual revenues of more than \$8 billion. Founded by Wall Street veteran Lynn Tilton in 2000, Patriarch is dedicated to saving American manufacturing jobs by saving American companies that have fallen from economic favor. Since its inception, Patriarch has bought more than 150 companies, and in so doing has saved over 250,000 jobs. Patriarch's portfolio includes a broad range of industrial concerns including Dura Automotive, American LaFrance, Denali, and MD Helicopters, in addition to iconic American brands such as Rand McNally, Spiegel Catalogs and Stila Cosmetics. Under Ms. Tilton's leadership, Patriarch has become the largest woman-owned business in America employing more than 120,000 employees. For more information, please visit: www.patriarchpartners.com.

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