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Era Partners with Leonardo Helicopters to Showcase AW189 Mission Capabilities

HOUSTON, March 02, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Era Group Inc. (NYSE:ERA), one of the largest helicopter operators in the world, today announced that one of its AW189 helicopters will be on display at the 2017 HAI Heli-Expo, the world's largest trade show dedicated to the international helicopter community. Era served as the launch customer for the AW189 helicopter in the Americas upon taking delivery of its first two AW189 helicopters in December 2015.

"Era is proud to have one of our AW189s on display as part of Leonardo's presence at this year's Heli-Expo," said Chris Bradshaw, President and Chief Executive Officer of Era. "The AW189 has been an outstanding addition to our diverse and technologically advanced fleet. Its versatility and reliability enhance our ability to provide competitive options for cost-efficient, long-range offshore helicopter transport. In addition, as a full-service operating lessor, Era stands ready to provide operational and technical support to assist other helicopter operators in the launch of their own AW189 operations."

As part of the Heli-Expo experience, Era will partner with Leonardo to showcase the AW189's spacious cabin and cockpit design incorporating the latest in advanced situational awareness technologies to reduce crew workload, optimize mission-effectiveness and enhance safety.

The aircraft benefits from an industry-leading 50 minutes 'dry-run' capability on the main gearbox, exceeding current certification standards and offering unmatched safety and reliability for long-range operations. Era took delivery of an additional two AW189 helicopters in 2016, increasing the Company's AgustaWestland fleet to over 60 helicopters including four AW189s.

"Showcasing the versatile AW189 currently in service with Era, the world's largest civilian operator of AgustaWestland helicopters, allows us to further display the aircraft's adaptability in support of a variety of mission profiles to key decision makers across the helicopter industry," added Daniele Romiti, Managing Director of Leonardo Helicopters. "We're pleased to have Era as a long-time partner and launch customer for the AW189 in the Americas, and appreciate the opportunity to be a part of their operational growth."

A recipient of the 2017 HAI *Salute to Excellence Airbus Helicopters Golden Hour Award* for its search and rescue (SAR) program, Era operates three SAR-equipped AW139 medium helicopters in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The dedicated aircraft feature complete Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical care packages, including critical care, fluid resuscitation, advanced airway, pain management and cardiac monitoring, providing unparalleled medical response capabilities. Era was the first emergency flight services provider to configure the AW139 for full SAR mission capabilities.

About Era

Era Group is one of the largest helicopter operators in the world and the longest serving helicopter transport operator in the U.S. In addition to servicing its U.S. customers, Era Group also provides helicopters and related services to third-party helicopter operators and customers in other countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, India, Suriname and the United Kingdom. Era Group's helicopters are primarily used to transport personnel to, from and between offshore oil and gas production platforms, drilling rigs and other installations. In addition, Era Group's helicopters are used to perform emergency air medical, search and rescue, firefighting, utility, VIP transport and flightseeing services. Era Group also provides a variety of operating lease solutions and technical fleet support to third party operators as well as offering unmanned aerial solutions.

About Leonardo

Leonardo is among the top ten global players in Aerospace, Defense and Security and Italy's main industrial company. As a single entity from January 2016, organized into seven business divisions (Helicopters; Aircraft; Aero-structures; Airborne & Space Systems; Land & Naval Defense Electronics; Defense Systems; Security & Information Systems), Leonardo operates in the most competitive international markets by leveraging its areas of technology and product leadership. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), at 31 December 2015 Leonardo recorded consolidated revenues of 13 billion Euros and has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the UK and the U.S.

For additional information concerning Era Group, contact Paul White, at (713) 369-4645 or visit Era Group's new website at www.erahelicopters.com.

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Source: Era Group Inc.