

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Onboard Systems Announces Blackcomb Helicopters as Canadian Launch Customer
for its Forthcoming Medium Bell HEC Dual Cargo Hook System
at the 2024 Heli-Expo in Anaheim, California, February 27-29**

Anaheim, California – February 28th, 2024 — Onboard Systems International, LLC, a leading provider of innovative helicopter cargo hook equipment, announced that Blackcomb Helicopters LP of British Columbia, Canada, has committed to purchase four Medium Bell HEC Dual Cargo Hook Systems during the 2024 HAI Heli-Expo tradeshow in Anaheim, California. The forthcoming Medium Bell HEC Dual Cargo Hook System is in development and is expected to receive FAA and Transport Canada STC certification by the end of 2024, and will also be submitted for EASA certification.

“In addition to the recently developed Bell 429 HEC system, we've had numerous operators request a medium Bell dual cargo hook HEC system from Onboard,” said Mike Fox, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Onboard Systems. “As we wrap up our Bell 429 HEC certification, we're turning our focus to this program in order to meet the strong, existing demand for a solution from Onboard.”

According to Chris Haslock, Director of Operations for Blackcomb Helicopters, “We have a number of medium Bells in our fleet, and we’re looking forward to expanding our mission capabilities with Onboard’s new HEC system. We especially appreciate that Onboard’s new system works in conjunction with our existing cargo hook, greatly minimizing the cost and installation effort to retrofit our fleet.”

Onboard’s new medium Bell HEC Dual Cargo Hook System will be certified to meet the requirements of 14 CFR 29.865 for Human External Cargo (HEC) for the Bell 204B, Bell 205A, Bell 212, Bell 412, and the UH-1 models. The dedicated HEC module will be attached to the airframe in very close proximity to the primary (NHEC) cargo hook, simplifying installation, on-going operations, and removal as needed for mission-specific configurations. Its location will also minimize the impact on aircraft balance during normal operation and in the event of a load transfer between hooks.

The HEC system will house Onboard’s acclaimed TALON[®] LC Hydraulic Cargo Hook. The hook's keeperless design eliminates dynamic rollout risk, a critical safety factor considering the nature of HEC missions. The HEC hook will be rated for lifting 1,300 lb. (590 kg), which will be the highest HEC capacity on the market for this aircraft. Options for adding an Onboard Weighing System will also be available.

Onboard Systems looks forward to welcoming visitors at the Signia Aerospace Heli-Expo booth (1631) to answer questions about all of their external load mission equipment, including cargo hooks, load weighing systems, and HEC-specific equipment.

About Onboard Systems

Onboard Systems International, LLC is a leading global provider of external cargo handling equipment for civil and military rotorcraft. Onboard's portfolio of innovative, holistic cargo hook systems, human external cargo (HEC) systems, Onboard Weighing Systems and mission-specific remote equipment is factory-installed on over 30 helicopter models serving both OEM and aftermarket customers. Its lightweight, high-quality products provide operators with increased safety and cost efficiencies through customer-driven designs, responsive service and support, and flexible maintenance options. Founded in 1975, Onboard Systems is based in Vancouver, Washington. Onboard Systems operates as a part of Signia Aerospace, a global integrated provider of high-performance systems and specialized components for the aerospace and defense industry. For more information, please visit www.onboardsystems.com.

About Blackcomb Helicopters

Blackcomb Helicopters was founded in 1989 in Whistler, British Columbia, where its fleet has grown to include twenty helicopters and sixty aviation professionals working from six main bases in Alberta and BC, serving all over Western Canada, the US Pacific Northwest, and points beyond. Blackcomb Helicopters is the region's leading independent helicopter charter company. The Blackcomb Helicopters' fleet utilizes Bell 212, Airbus AS350/H125, and H135 helicopters to perform an array of specialized aerial operations, with clients spanning a diverse spectrum of key industries, businesses, and public services. Visit our website at www.blackcombhelicopters.com for more information.

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Contact:

Sheri Gormley
Marketing Manager
Onboard Systems International, LLC
Sheri@OnboardSystems.com
Tel: 360.546.3072, x 280

Nicola Horsfall
Marketing Specialist
Blackcomb Helicopters LP
nhorsfall@blackcombhelicopters.com
Tel: 604-938-1700