

Showcasing HAL's prowess at Aero India 2021

VAYU Interview with Mr. R. Madhavan, CMD Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.



VAYU : *As we prepare for the forthcoming Aero India 2021, kindly give our readers an overview of HAL's participation at the Show and which aircraft types would be displayed and flight demonstrated.*

CMD: The primary focus is to showcase HAL's prowess in the aerospace and defence arena to the world, with display of indigenously-designed and developed fixed and rotary wing platforms, technologies covering power plants, avionics, etc.

- With central theme of the **India Pavilion** being rotary wing capability in India, HAL's rotary platform Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) will be centrepiece of the display with scaled models of the IMRH, ALH, LUH, LCH and the Indian helicopter manufacturing ecosystem/supply chain partners arrayed around it.
- The HAL Stall in Hall 'E' will display our capability and contribution in line with HAL's central theme "Conceive-Indigenise-Collaborate". Future generation combat capable airborne solutions will be displayed here.
- The Outdoor display adjacent to HAL stall will feature rotary wing products namely the LCH, ALH Mk IV Rudra and ALH Civil variant.
- Display of the range of indigenous HAL platforms participating in static and flying display are included as part of *Aatmanirbhar Formation* flight. Both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft including the Su-30, Do 228, Hawk-i, HTT-40, ALH, LCH, LUH will be in

the flying display. In the static display are HTT-40, LUH, ALH Mk. III and Dornier 228. Customer demo flights will be offered to select customers, on need basis.

- HAL plans to sign MoUs/Agreements with global aerospace majors/associates both foreign and Indian looking for capacity and capability to address the requirements of Indian Defence and global markets. HAL has planned to sign various MoUs/Agreements.
- Product Launch/handling over/major announcements on reaching key milestones are also planned, including handing over of first hardware of Semi-Cryo development project of the ISRO.

VAYU : *HAL's Helicopter Complex continues to develop variants of ALH, including the Mk. III wheeled version for the Coast Guard. Has the Service cleared its induction for deployment on board Coast Guard OPVs? What is status of the ALH variant offered to the Indian Navy, with folding rotor blades?*

CMD: The newly-built ALH Mk.III wheeled variant for the Indian Coast Guard is integrated with nineteen additional equipment/sensors/systems for coastal security roles. All the trials needed towards certification of the new systems were completed during November 2020 at Goa. As required by the contract, final certification of the helicopters with 19 new systems by RCMA/ CEMILAC is at the final stages. After completing the certification by RCMA/CEMILAC and

SOC by RDAQA, the helicopters will be cleared for deployment on board Coast Guard OPVs. By design, the helicopters are cleared for ship borne operations.

HAL has two orders for ALH Mk.III wheeled variant which includes 16 helicopters for Indian Coast Guard and 16 for the Indian Navy. The Navy and CG variants of ALH Mk.III are built with capability for manual folding of rotor blades, meeting the contract requirement of dimensions and time.

VAYU : *Series production of the Tejas LCA Mk.I (FOC) commenced last year with the first such aircraft handed over to the Air Force on 27 May 2020. When would the balance aircraft of this series be handed over?*

CMD: We have orders for delivering 16 FOC block fighters to the IAF, out of which, first FOC LCA aircraft has joined 18 Squadron of the IAF in May 2020. Flight testing has started for two more aircraft and another six aircraft are in the advanced stages of system integration and testing. The structural assembly manufacturing is underway for the remaining seven aircraft from the FOC batch. We are steering to conclude FOC fighter production by 2022.

VAYU : *HAL is now responsible for development of the LCA Mk.1A and the Air Chief has reiterated that formal orders will be placed on HAL for this type during the current FY. What are the timelines for completing integration of the chosen new systems and by when would certification be received?*