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Rheinmetall to modernize NH90 cockpit trainer for the Bundeswehr

The German Bundeswehr is currently expanding its helicopter training programme with simulation technology from Rheinmetall. Several weeks ago, Germany's BAANBw defence procurement agency awarded Rheinmetall a contract to develop an NH90 cockpit trainer. The user will be German Air Force Technical School 3 in Fassberg.

Specifically, the cockpit trainer will be used for initial and advanced training of Bundeswehr aviation technical personnel in NH90 helicopter operations. The complete training system consists of a trainer workstation and a replica cockpit from the NH90 simulator identical to the current IOC+ configuration of the NH90 helicopter, plus the associated computer hardware.

A core element of the NH90 cockpit trainer is the simulation software program that replicates various helicopters, thus making it possible to conduct progressively expandable training of maintenance personnel using a single simulator.

This advanced training system is based on Rheinmetall's Asterion modular cockpit simulation. In the first expansion stage, the cockpit trainer's software realistically reproduces the behaviour and functionality of the NH90's electrical system. When the real helicopter is reconfigured to "IOC+" design status, it results in technical alterations in the cockpit which have to be taken into account when configuring the replica cockpit, the training simulation and trainer workstation.

An initial phase of the project is to be completed by mid 2014. Furthermore, an option exists to expand the system to include additional modules and training systems.

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