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Robinson Sales Hit All Time High

Torrance, CA—Robinson Helicopter Company delivered 690 new aircraft in 2004, more units than the manufacturer has ever produced in a single year. Robinson delivered 234 new two-seat R22s and 456 new four-seat R44 helicopters, a sixty-three percent increase over the company's production of 422 new aircraft in 2003. Overall production is approaching 6,000 units with a total of 3,800 R22s and over 2,100 R44s manufactured to date.

Strong demand for both models in the United States and abroad has created a large backlog of orders, prompting Robinson to increase its production rate from 15 to 20 new helicopters per week by summer 2005.

To accommodate market demand and increase its production capabilities, the company recently completed construction of a new building, adding 215,000 square-feet of manufacturing space. The new facility is adjacent to Robinson's main factory building on the south side of the Torrance Airport and increases the company's total floor space to 480,000 square feet. The increased production space has allowed Robinson to add more than 100 new machines and increase its workforce to 1,200 employees.

Several manufacturing processes, previously sub-contracted to outside vendors, can now be performed in-house with state-of-the art machinery purchased for the new facility. A powder coating machine has been added to provide a more durable, corrosion-resistant finish on metal parts, and is particularly effective for complicated machined parts with corners or deep recessions. An aluminium heat-treating furnace was custom built to Robinson's specifications and allows faster turn-around time on hundreds of aluminum parts. Robinson has also incorporated advanced laser cutting and water jet cutting for tooling and production. New leading edge machinery cuts continuously without switching cutting tools and easily manufactures prototype parts, eliminating the need for new tooling and allowing Robinson to integrate design improvements more rapidly into production. With the company's increased production capacity, Frank Robinson expects "2005 to be as good as or even better than 2004."

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters. For additional information about Robinson, visit the website at www.robinsonheli.com.

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