

Press release

16 November, 2021

The Châteauroux site of Rafaut Group, supplier of the new generation of loading hooks for the NH90 military program

In partnership with NHIndustries through its Partner Company Airbus Helicopters, the Châteauroux site of Rafaut Group has developed a new generation of external loading hooks meeting the complex technical and environmental specifications of the NH90 military program.

The Châteauroux site team has brought together all the requirements and constraints of the various armed forces to develop this new generation of loading hooks, which can be used as much for refuelling, for transporting loads as for transporting vehicles. Development and design focused on safety aspects while facilitating the use and operations of the armed forces, including vertical replenishment (VERTREP).

This hook has been designed to meet missions in extreme weather conditions, with numerous options that adapt to the demanding requirements of the NH90 military program. It can support a load of up to 10 tons.

This expertise, in collaboration with NH Industries and its Partner Company Airbus Helicopters, has enabled the development and success of this new version of more complex and complete loading hooks. The market launch is scheduled for the end of the year.

"I am very proud of the Châteauroux team who have taken up the challenge of our major customer AIRBUS HELICOPTER. We must continue to innovate to offer new development adventures in this strategic helicopter segment." Nicolas Orance, Chief Executive Officer of Rafaut Group.

About the Châteauroux site

The site, with over 60 years of experience, designs, qualifies, industrializes, produces, sells and repairs products mainly used for helicopter load carrying. Very established in the European market and present worldwide, its main customers are Airbus Helicopters, Bell Textron, Sikorsky and many helicopter operators around the world.

About the RAFAUT Group

The Rafaut Group is now a French mid-size enterprise, an equipment supplier for civil and defense aeronautics. A specialist in carriage and release in the defense field, Rafaut also operates in the civil sector, developing and producing complex electromechanical sub-assemblies.

The Ozoir-la-Ferrière and Pérols sites develop and market a range of training and radar solutions for the armed forces. The Valenton site is a leader in the field of carriage and release systems for defense aeronautics. The team primarily designs and manufactures equipment designed to form an interface between the airplane and its cargo: wing pylons, ejectors, triggers, etc. depending on the type of aircraft. The Saint-Soupplets site brings expertise in the design and manufacture of on-board electronic equipment, cabling and test benches.

For more information, visit www.rafaut.com or get the latest news on LinkedIn.

About NHIndustries

NHIndustries is the largest rotorcraft Joint Venture in European history and it is responsible for the design, manufacturing, and support of the NH90 helicopter, one of the leaders in the latest generation of military helicopters. The company takes the best from European rotorcraft and defence Industry through its ownership comprising Airbus Helicopters (62.5%), Leonardo (32%) and GKN Fokker (5.5%). Each company has an extensive aerospace pedigree and brings the top of its skills and expertise to the product.

For more information, visit: www.nhindustries.com