Latest-generation braking for the H160 helicopter

Messier-Bugatti-Dowty provides the electric braking system on Airbus Helicopters’ latest model, the H160. With its new-generation composite carbon friction material and electric actuators, this system represents a major technological breakthrough in helicopter braking.

The electric brake, a first for a helicopter

For the H160 program, Messier-Bugatti-Dowty draws on its expertise in electric braking, acquired on the Boeing 787 “Dreamliner”, the first commercial aircraft in the world equipped with electrically controlled brakes. This system presents many benefits, including the elimination of hydraulic circuits, which cuts down on weight and bulk, while electric braking also simplifies maintenance.

Latest-generation materials

Unlike other helicopters, which are all fitted with steel brakes, Airbus Helicopters’ H160 is the first helicopter to benefit from carbon technology for its brake system. Again, this is an innovation inherited from commercial aviation developed over the last thirty years by Messier-Bugatti-Dowty, the world leader in carbon brakes – lighter, more reliable and more efficient compared to steel – for commercial aircraft.

The H160 flew for the first time on June 13, 2015. During the Paris Air Show, a scale model of the innovation-packed helicopter is on display on the Airbus stand.

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*Messier-Bugatti-Dowty (Safran) is the world leader in aircraft landing and braking systems. The company’s capabilities encompass the full product life cycle, ranging from design and manufacture to in-service support, repair and overhaul. Messier-Bugatti-Dowty is a partner to 30 leading commercial, military, business and regional aircraft manufacturers, and supports more than 25,000 aircraft making over 40,000 landings every day. The company has more than 7,000 employees at locations in Europe, North America and Asia.*