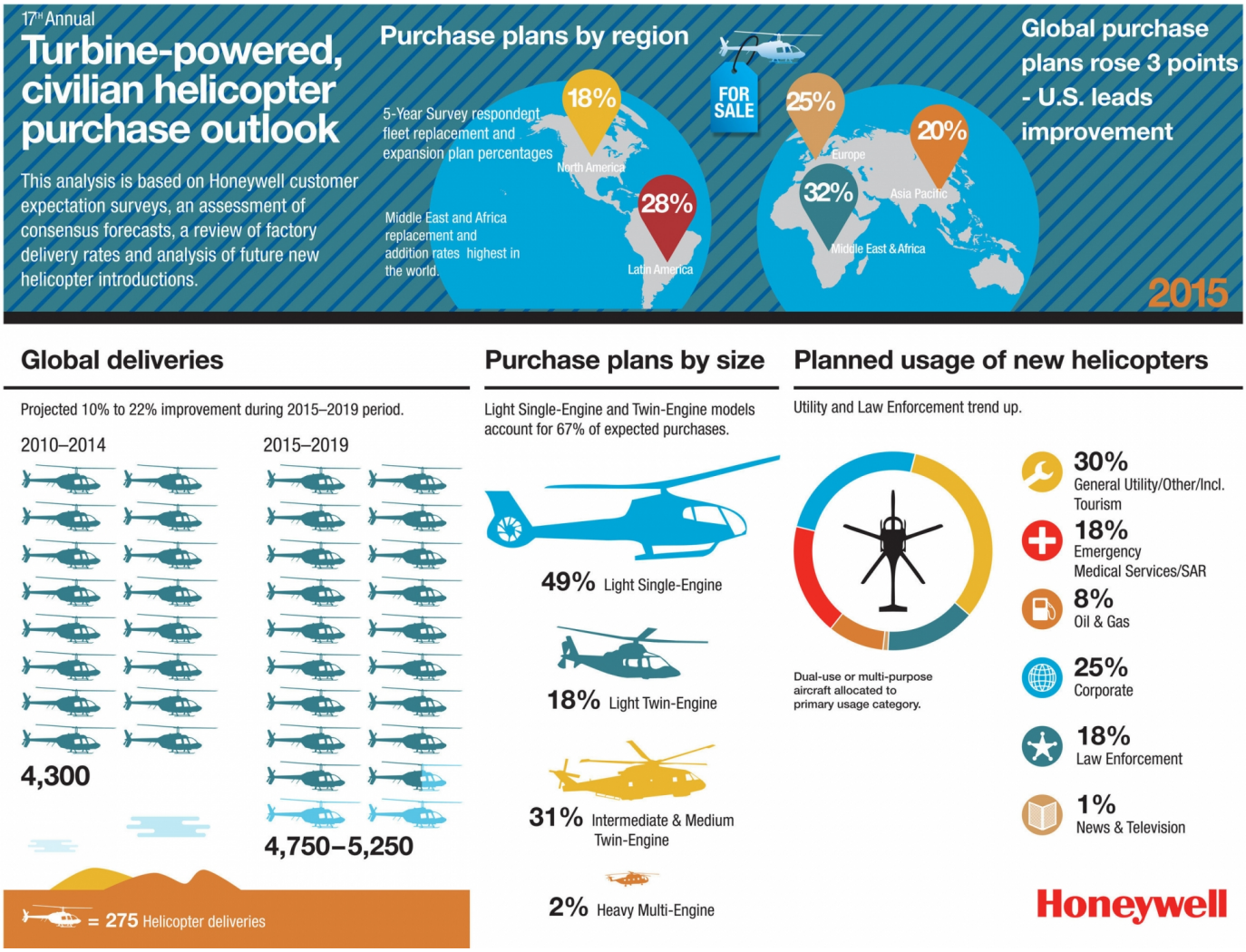
HONEYWELL FORECASTS 4,300 TO 4,800 GLOBAL HELICOPTER DELIVERIES OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer



In the face of a slower global economic growth environment and increased volatility in oil and gas-related markets, the helicopter industry is reacting with a cautious outlook for near-term new purchases. In its 18th annual Turbine-Powered Civil Helicopter Purchase Outlook, Honeywell forecasts 4,300 to 4,800 civilian-use helicopters will be delivered from 2016 to 2020, roughly 400 helicopters lower than the 2015 five-year forecast.

"The current global economic situation is causing fleet managers to evaluate new helicopter purchases closely, and that's why we're seeing a more cautious five-year demand projection compared with previous years," said Carey Smith, president, Defense and Space at Honeywell Aerospace. "Even in a slower growth environment, Honeywell is well-positioned to help operators keep current fleets lasting longer with aftermarket upgrades and repairs."

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Key global findings in the outlook include:

- The survey showed new purchase-plan rates were stable, but operators cited fewer total new model purchases over the five-year period, leading to a more cautious near-term outlook.
- When considering a new purchase, operators' results mirrored those from last year, with make and model choices for their new aircraft most strongly influenced by range, cabin size, performance, technology upgrades and brand experience.
- Helicopter fleet utilization generally declined compared with last year. Over the next 12 months, usage rates are expected to improve but at a reduced rate.

Helicopter Use Expected to Increase

- Helicopter fleet utilization reported in the survey generally declined compared with last year. Over the next 12 months, usage rates are expected to increase but at a reduced rate, as the gap between operators planning increases and those planning decreases has narrowed in every region.

Regional Overview

Latin America *The 2016 results show strong fleet replacement and growth expectations, well above the world average, rising 8 percentage points over the prior year.*

- Latin America led all global regions in the rate of new aircraft purchase plans despite an economic slowdown in Brazil.
- In terms of projected regional demand for new helicopters, Latin America is now contributing the second highest demand among the regions tracked, trailing only North America.
- Latin American respondents currently favor light single-engine models for just under half their planned acquisitions, followed by light twin-engine models at about 35 percent and a balance of intermediate and medium twin-engine platforms for the remaining purchases.

Middle East and Africa *This region has the second-highest new purchase rate among the regions, with up to 30 percent of respondent fleets slated for turnover with a new helicopter replacement or addition*.

- More than 60 percent of planned new helicopter purchases are intermediate and medium twin-engine models.
- Heavy multi-engine models are underrepresented due to the absence of input from the large oil and gas operators in the region.

North America *Purchase expectations fell 2 percentage points in this year's survey but still provide a strong base of demand for light single-engine and intermediate or medium twin-engine platforms.*

- More than 60 percent of planned North America purchases were identified as light single-engine models, while just under a quarter of new purchases were slated as intermediate or medium twin-engine models.
- North American purchase plans are a significant component of the overall 2016 survey demand and help support global industry demand projections by virtue of the large fleet active in the region.

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Europe *Purchase plans decreased slightly with continued weakness in reported Russian buying plans.*

- The sample of Russian operators responding in 2016 remains small, which continues to add some uncertainty to the overall European results.
- European purchase intentions currently tend to favor light twin-engine and light single-engine models in nearly equal shares this year.

BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) *Demand continues to ebb and flow with stronger results recorded for India andBrazil in the 2016 survey.*

- In India and Brazil, new helicopter purchase-plan rates exceed the world average by a wide margin. Planned Chinese purchase rates slipped, reflecting near-term slower economic growth prospects.
- Notably, no Chinese-built models received specific purchase interest mentions in the survey; however, civil deliveries are occurring and are reflected in the Honeywell outlook.

Methodology

The 2016 outlook presents a snapshot of the helicopter business at a point in time and reflects the current business and political environment. This year's survey queried more than 1,000 chief pilots and flight department managers of companies operating 3,070 turbine and 360 piston helicopters worldwide. The survey excluded large fleet or "mega" operators, which were addressed separately. Input received from large oil and gas support and emergency medical service fleet operators is factored into the overall outlook in addition to the individual flight department responses. The survey detailed the types of aircraft operated and assessed specific plans to replace or add to the fleet with new aircraft.

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