



LYNX Mk9 go High Definition with Video Mission Box from HeliMedia



HeliMedia, specialist in intelligence, surveillance and communications solutions, has supplied eight **High Definition Video Mission Box (HD VMB)** systems for the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) LYNX Mk 9 aircraft as part of an Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR).



MX-10 HD turret

The VMB's are being installed along with L3 Wescam MX-10 turrets as part of a larger project for in-theatre operations. The design and choice of materials for the VMB's together with the lightweight turrets, means a significant reduction in weight on the aircraft allowing other mission critical equipment to be carried simultaneously. The new fit also enables extended flying times. Both of these are key requirements for the LYNX project team.

The first phase of the project sees eight helicopters being fitted with the new systems, and deployed in theatre. The number of helicopters in the fleet is 25.

The design stage of the project utilised the very latest in 3D CAD modelling technologies. At the beginning of the project, a LYNX helicopter was digitally scanned to create a 3D model of the cabin into which the VMB CAD model was placed. The design team, the LYNX project team and operators were then able to investigate different equipment positions and orientations. Reviewing and modifying the VMB CAD model in real time ensured that the final design was optimised ergonomically and was fit for operational purpose.

The VMB uses modern composite materials and is a more compact design, offering a 60% weight saving over the existing system, and delivering greater capability. It includes a 19" HD display, HD video recorder, HD video downlink and a moving map that communicates with the MX-10.

The build and supply of all equipment for this project has been strictly regulated under EASA and DAOS regulations.

Stephen Watson, Business Development Manager at HeliMedia comments: "This is the first phase of an urgent operational requirement and training is on-going for both the MX-10's and VMB's. Our challenge was to reduce the size and weight of the existing video system so that the aircraft could simultaneously carry other military equipment and fly for longer periods of time. We have achieved this and more, as this is one of the first airborne HD mission systems within the MoD".

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