Sikorsky/PZL Mielec M28® Aircraft Granted Full Icing Certification By EASA And FAA

MIELEC, Poland - The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the U.S. have certified the M28® fixed-wing aircraft for flight in known icing conditions. The M28 is produced by the PZL Mielec company, a business unit of Sikorsky Aircraft, which is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. (NYSE:UTX).

M28 aircraft produced with the icing system will now be allowed to launch in icy weather that might otherwise delay or cancel flight operations. The M28 airplane's icing system determines the temperature and moisture content of the surrounding environment and applies heat to the propeller, wing struts and critical aerodynamic surfaces to remove any ice buildup.

"The M28 already offers best-in-class short takeoff and landing capabilities, providing our worldwide customers easier access to rugged locations. The addition of the icing certification further extends the possibilities of how and where the aircraft can operate," said Janusz Zakrecki, PZL Mielec's President and General Director.

EASA granted the certification upon completion of preliminary flight tests in the USA in 2012, which included flight-testing behind a CH-47D helicopter with special equipment that creates a cloud of ice in the air behind it. Final flight tests were completed in natural icing conditions and with simulated ice shapes in Poland in March 2013. Those tests also included evaluations by the FAA, which granted its certificate following EASA's approval.

The M28 is a twin-engine, high-wing cantilever monoplane of all-metal structure, with twin vertical tails and a robust tricycle non-retractable landing gear, featuring a steerable nose wheel to provide for operation from short, unprepared runways, where hot or high altitude conditions may exist. The M28 is best suited for passenger and/or cargo transportation, but offers a readily configurable cabin for a range of missions. Powered by Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-65B engines, the M28 holds EASA, FAA and Indonesian Type Certificates.

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, based in Stratford, Conn., is a world leader in helicopter design, manufacturing and service. United Technologies Corporation, based in Hartford, Conn., provides a broad range of high-technology products and support services to the aerospace and building systems industries.

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