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**AgustaWestland signs agreement with Sloane Helicopters for 44 helicopters, worth 200 mln. euro**

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AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, and Sloane Helicopters Ltd today announced the signing of a new distribution agreement to provide a minimum of 44 AgustaWestland helicopters in the four year period, to the United Kingdom and Irish civil helicopter market. This agreement will allow Sloane to market and sell the entire AgustaWestland civil market product line.

Sloane has already signed a contract to acquire 10 helicopters in 2006. The distribution agreement spans four years. The overall market value of the agreement is approximately 200 million Euro.

This agreement will strengthen AgustaWestland's share of the UK twin-light VIP/Corporate market, which is already more than 70%, and will allow further expansion in the UK HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) and police market.

Sloane Helicopters Ltd has been supporting AgustaWestland's UK sales since 1996. During these ten years Sloane has sold more than 40 AgustaWestland helicopters in the UK and Ireland. Sloane also acts as a Service Centre, Maintenance facility and Type Rating Transition center for AgustaWestland civil helicopters in the UK. This agreement will strengthen AgustaWestland's position in the UK civil market.