

## AgustaWestland wins contract to support UK Sea King helicopter Fleet

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AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, has been awarded a £300 million pound (438 million euro) five year contract for the support of the UK MoD's fleet of Sea King Helicopters. AgustaWestland, as prime contractor, has teamed with BAE Systems Avionics and Thales UK to form a new industrial partnership to secure the long term future support provided to Sea King aircraft.

Known as Sea King Integrated Operational Support (SKIOS), this concept provides the MOD with guaranteed levels of availability of support, a more integrated support service based upon guaranteed availability of equipment and technical services and aligns the industrial support infrastructure with the needs of the Operational Customer.

SKIOS marks the first implementation under the new joint commitment by the MoD and AgustaWestland Partnering and Business Transformation agreement.

AgustaWestland, the UK's only design authority and manufacturer of rotary-wing aircraft, will provide Prime Contractor management for their availability services. BAE Systems Avionics and Thales UK have established an avionics alliance for all rotary aircraft and within SKIOS will provide AgustaWestland with a reliable 'avionics arm' to deliver a total platform support capability

The Sea King has been operational for 30 years, with various upgrades and airframe improvements throughout this period. They are currently due to remain in service until 2018 and will continue to play a key part in Britain's defence and Search and Rescue infrastructure. The Sea King fleet comprises seven different marks of aircraft, flying a wide variety of missions in a number of roles including Search and Rescue (SAR), Airborne Early Warning (AEW) and amphibious troop transport.