



NEWS RELEASE

COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS WINS TURKEY FIREFIGHTING CONTRACT

Fifth Consecutive Year Supporting Wildfire Response with 234 Chinook Aircraft

Aurora, Oregon – March 31, 2025 – Columbia Helicopters (“Columbia”) is pleased to announce the renewal of its aerial firefighting contract with CMC Savunma Sanayi A.S. (“CMC”) in Turkey. This marks Columbia's fifth consecutive fire season supporting Turkey's national wildfire response, reinforcing a strong partnership with both CMC and the Turkish General Directorate of Forestry.

Under the new contract, Columbia will deploy four (4) Columbia 234 Multi-Mission Chinook helicopters, supported by experienced flight crews and dedicated maintenance personnel for the 2025 fire season. Each aircraft is equipped with a 2,600-gallon Bambi Bucket, providing precise water and retardant delivery to high-risk areas.

David Balevic, President and CEO of Columbia Helicopters, said: “We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with CMC. This multi-year collaboration reflects the trust we’ve built together and the consistent performance and reliability our teams deliver. As Turkey prepares for the upcoming fire season, we are honored to support national efforts to protect lives, forests and critical infrastructure.”

President and CEO of CMC, Cem Çolak said: “We are pleased to continue our partnership with Columbia Helicopters. After four years of successful firefighting operations, their 234 Multi-Mission Chinook helicopters have become a key asset in our support to the Turkish General Directorate of Forestry.”

Wildfire activity in Turkey has escalated significantly in recent years. Data from the General Directorate of Forestry indicates an increase in annual wildfire incidents from approximately 2,950 in 2020 to an estimated 3,800 in 2024.

"Our team has witnessed firsthand the growing scale and intensity of these fires," said Scott Rumsby, Crew Chief for Aircraft 37 and Turkey Operations Lead. "The 2024 season was especially challenging, with record-breaking temperatures driving conditions that required rapid and sustained response. We are proud to work alongside Turkish crews once again to help contain and suppress these destructive fires."

The fire season in Turkey typically runs from May to October, peaking in July and August.

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Note to editors:

About Columbia Helicopters

Columbia Helicopters is the global leader in heavy-lift helicopter operations and a trusted expert in maintenance, repair, and overhaul services. Backed by over 65 years of experience, Columbia operates internationally, often conducting operations in remote, austere conditions, providing safe and reliable aircraft and qualified personnel that meet demanding global transport requirements. Columbia leverages its position as the OEM and FAA Type Certificate holder for both the Model 234 Chinook and 107-II helicopters to provide responsive modifications, lifecycle support, and MRO services trusted worldwide by a diverse customer base. For more information, please visit www.colheli.com.

About Model 234 Chinook

The Columbia 234 Multi-Mission Chinook is certified to civilian transport category standards and supports internal cargo and passenger transport. Columbia acquired the Type Certificate for the Model 234 from Boeing in 2005, and as the OEM, provides full lifecycle support – sustainment, training, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) to operators worldwide.

About CMC Savunma Sanayi A.S.

CMC is one of the important players in the Türkiye's economy with its experience in the business world and its dynamism in all sectors in which it operates. Active in aerial fire-fighting sector since 2019, CMC is recognized for being the pioneer in introducing to Türkiye heavy helicopters and aircraft. For more information, please visit <https://www.cmcholding.com.tr>