Aerial Firefighting Just Got Better

IMS Launches Updated Multi-Drop Monsoon Valve for Cloudburst Fire Buckets

NEW ZEALAND, August 26, 2025 – IMS New Zealand, a trusted name in helicopter equipment, has announced the release of its updated Multi-Drop Monsoon Valve for the Cloudburst Fire Bucket, setting a new benchmark for Initial Attack aerial firefighting.

The new valve is compatible with Cloudburst Fire Buckets up to 1,200 litres (320 gallons) and features a compact, streamlined profile that allows it to be transported in a standard external cargo basket. This innovation reduces setup time and enables operators to reach the fire line faster than ever before.

Built on over two decades of real-world field use, the updated Multi-Drop Monsoon Valve delivers a powerful, high-volume water column with precise control, giving pilots the ability to make multiple targeted drops from a single load.



Cloudburst Fire Bucket inside AS350 External Cargo Basket

"This valve is going to be a game changer for Initial Attack operators," said Declan Monteith, Technical Sales at IMS. "With the updated Monsoon Valve, we're providing a higher flow rate in a smaller profile allowing a Multi-Drop Bucket to fit into a standard external cargo basket."

Key Features:

- Compact Streamlined design fits external cargo baskets
- High Flow Rate Delivers a powerful, focused water column for maximum effectiveness
- Multi-Drop Capable Precision control with multiple drop functionality
- Built Tough Rugged construction for demanding conditions
- Designed & Built in New Zealand Engineered for high performance and durability
- Operations Tested Based on the proven Cloudburst platform, refined through over two decades of real-world use
- Optional Additive Integration System Supports the use of foams and additives during initial attack

IMS has already delivered two 1,000-litre (264-gallon) Cloudburst Fire Buckets equipped with the new valve to Canada this fire season, marking the first of many orders for this upgraded design.

For more information on the Multi-Drop Monsoon Valve or the Cloudburst product range, visit www.imsheli.com or contact imssales@imsheli.com.