



KELOWNA **Flightcraft**

PRESS RELEASE

Kelowna Flightcraft Ltd. is pleased to announce that they have been assigned a long term contract to perform heavy maintenance for the Department of National Defense (DND) Fixed Wing Search & Rescue (SAR) aircraft that service British Columbia & the Yukon.

Kelowna Flightcraft will support the Buffalo (DHC-5) and Twin Otter (DHC-6) Aircraft on behalf of the Canadian Forces. The Buffalo aircraft are based out of Comox, BC, as part of 442 Squadron, and are an integral part of the Search & Rescue work performed on the vast West Coast of Canada. The Twin Otter are based out of 440 Squadron in Yellowknife, NWT, providing support to the Canadian Forces, Canadian Rangers, and Cadets across Northern Canada.

The work scope includes Tier 3 Aircraft Maintenance, Buffalo Avionics Life Extension modifications, and Component Repair & Overhaul. The contract, worth over \$39 million, begins May 1, 2009 and extends to March 31, 2013. It is anticipated to extend to 2015 and possibly beyond. This work will provide steady, long term employment for 50 highly skilled technicians and support staff.

Flightcraft has a long history of working with DND, completing T-33 and Cosmo upgrades in the late 90's, and operating the Canada Wings Training Center since 2005, where over 100 pilots are trained annually on behalf of the Canadian Air Force. In addition, Kelowna Flightcraft is committed to a teaming arrangement with Field Aviation and OEM Viking Air to maximize the operational readiness of the aircraft for DND.

“We are very pleased to acquire this maintenance & modification work for DND, as it continues to add to the long term stability of Flightcraft here in Kelowna, especially as we face this significant economic downturn around the world” says Barry Lapointe, President and CEO of Kelowna Flightcraft. “As many of you know, DND is already a primary customer of Flightcraft with our Canada Wings facility. In that contract we built facilities to train Military Pilots in Manitoba, and acquired and modified 34 aircraft, 2 full motion simulators, 3 buildings and advanced flight training software for the 20 year commitment there.

Kelowna Flightcraft Background

Kelowna Flightcraft operates or leases over 50 aircraft; is Canada's largest cargo airline; is an aircraft maintenance and manufacturing organization; is a transport Canada Design Approval organization (engineering); owns the type certificate for the Convair airplane, and is a Transport Canada Approved Training Organization delivering training to a wide range of aviation companies. In operation since 1970, Kelowna Flightcraft is ISO 9001 certified and employs 1000 employees across Canada with our head office located in Kelowna, BC.

Kelowna Flightcraft's full service **Aircraft Maintenance Operations** focus on heavy aircraft maintenance, overhaul, and modifications with major facilities in Kelowna, BC and Hamilton, ON. This includes mechanical, structures, avionics, engine, landing gear, painting & parts supply

with a focus on B727, B737, B757, B767; DC-10, DH-8, and Convair 580 and 5800 stretch aircraft.

Kelowna Flightcraft's **Charter Operations** have the capability to deliver over 900,000 lbs of freight nightly across Canada utilizing a fleet of nineteen aircraft, including DC10-30F, B727-200, and Convair 580.

Kelowna Flightcraft's **Allied Wings Operation** provides Primary and Advanced Military Flight Training for Canada's Air Force at the Canada Wings Aviation Training Centre. Based in Southport, Manitoba (5 minutes from Portage la Prairie, MB) over 100 pilots are trained annually utilizing a fleet of 34 aircraft (Grob120A, King Air C90B, Bell 206, and Bell 412) and 3 state-of-the-art flight simulators.

For further information regarding Kelowna Flightcraft please contact Monica McLean, Executive Assistant:

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DeHavilland Canada CC-115 *Buffalo* (DHC-5A)

