

## **Light Utility Helicopter – An opportunity for Indian industry and Armed Forces to create ecosystem for helicopter manufacturing in India**

**NEW DELHI, 11 December 2014:** FICCI conducted International Seminar on Light Utility Helicopter with the theme “Requirement & Potential in India – Reference to RSH and NUH” at New Delhi on December 11, 2014. The seminar aimed to discuss the current opportunities and future requirements of Light Utility Helicopters by the defence and paramilitary forces of the country. The seminar provided a unique opportunity for the industry to interface with senior officials of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force to understand the operational requirements of users.

Speaking on the occasion, **Lt Gen (Retd) Narendra Singh, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Advisor to Chairman HAL**, emphasised that the success in ambitious program like RSH and NUH can be achieved only when both the industry and users are in sync with each other’s capabilities and requirements. SQRs should be made on this mutual understanding, in order to proactive participation by the Indian industry. He further advocated the both cases of the Army and the Navy be processed its parallel to leverage any complementarities in these acquisition.

**Air Marshal (Retd.) M Matheswaran, AVSM, VM, PhD, Advisor (Strategy) to Chairman, HAL & FICCI Task Force on Aerospace and Air Defence** mentioned that we should strive towards manufacturing of products indigenously as both RSH and NUH have unique requirements based on India’s geographical realities. Most of the readily available global solutions which were designed and developed for other geographies may not exactly fit or perform in India as per our expectations. He further stated that overall requirements is approximately 1000+ helicopters and if we include the requirements from civil sector than the figure will cross 2000 mark. The numbers justify the investment and long run sustenance vision of Indian private sector and also augurs well with Hon’ble Prime Minister call for ‘Make in India’.

Mr. Sudhakar Gande, Chairman – FICCI Task Force on Aerospace and Air Defence and Vice Chairman, AXISCADES Aerospace & Technologies Ltd. said India has reached to a level where we strongly believe establishing a relationship of partnership for the mutual benefit, innovations and strategic safeguard is of our interest.

Mr. Bharat Malkani, , Co-Chairman – FICCI Task Force on Aerospace and Air Defence Chairman & Managing Director, Max Aerospace & Aviation Pvt. Ltd emphasised on the need for utilisation of existing infrastructure presently with IAF / HAL as these are national infrastructure and thus is not a business case for private sector to reinvent the wheel. A political will is needed to develop a collaborative approach towards developing helicopter manufacturing base in country as ‘One Nation, One Industry’ using the strengths of both the public and private sector towards fulfilling national aspirations.

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