Boeing Successfully Completes 1st Flight of Newest UK Chinook Helicopter

RIDLEY TOWNSHIP, Pa., April 15, 2013 -- Boeing recently completed the first flight of the newest CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter for the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force.

The March 15 flight, at the Boeing helicopter facility near Philadelphia, happened ahead of schedule and confirmed initial airworthiness for the Mk6 Chinook.

"This is a truly impressive achievement for both Boeing and the project team," said Capt. David Childs, Chinook Team Leader, UK Defence Equipment & Support. "To see the first aircraft fly less than 20 months after contract signature is a source of great pride for all those involved in this key project."

The Mk6 Chinook features advanced technology including UK-specific avionics, a forward-looking infrared system, and interoperable communication and navigation equipment. It is undergoing comprehensive testing in Mesa, Ariz., before delivery to the UK later this year.

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B-roll video is available to media via the contacts below.

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