Japan Orders 17 Boeing CH-47JA Block II Chinooks

- Boeing, Kawasaki Heavy Industries continue partnership on Japanese Chinook fleet

- Japan becomes the fourth global customer to modernize to the Block II configuration

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13, 2025 — The Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) has ordered 17 CH-47 Block II Chinooks Extended Range to modernize its fleet, replacing some of its CH-47 JA aircraft. The aircraft will be co-produced by Boeing and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI).

Boeing and KHI have delivered over 100 Chinooks to the JSDF since the 1980s, making it one of the longest lasting and most successful license manufacturing programs in Japan.

“This award strengthens our decades-long relationship with KHI and provides critical capability improvements that will keep the Japan Self-Defense Forces operating heavy-lift aircraft for decades to come,” said Heather McBryan, vice president and program manager, Boeing Cargo Programs. “The Block II configuration and digital flight controls will modernize and significantly improve Japan’s helicopter transport capabilities by improving aircraft stability, safety, and efficiency.”

The Block II Chinook extended range aircraft is the next generation of heavy-lift, and multi-mission helicopter. This aircraft features an advanced digital cockpit, reinforced airframe, enhanced fuel tanks, and other improvements allowing increased performance and commonality with the expanding global fleet of updated Chinooks. The adoption of the modern aircraft design and avionics architecture enables future technology upgrades and the ability to further expand operational capabilities.

Japan joins the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany as the fourth global customer for this advanced configuration, ensuring the JSDF remains at the forefront of heavy-lift aviation for years to come.

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