

NEW ABERDEEN BASE FOR SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE

This year Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance will operate a new air ambulance service from Aberdeen International Airport, under a new four-year contract with Babcock, which will see the aerial emergency services specialist operate and maintain the chopper from a new base at the airport.

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) has been operating the country's first and only charity-funded air ambulance helicopter service from its base at Perth Airport since 2013.

During that time, the charity has responded to over 2,200 emergencies, working alongside the Scottish Ambulance Service's air fleet, taking paramedic care to those most seriously ill or injured anywhere in Scotland and transporting them on to definitive hospital care.

Babcock's Onshore Director Richard Youngs said: "Babcock is a familiar name in Aberdeen for offshore operations, but we are also the UK's leading provider of air ambulance services and have supported SCAA since it was formed in 2013. Bringing this new aircraft and service to Aberdeen is great news for communities in the north east and further afield."

The new aircraft will operate from a dedicated facility on the east side of Aberdeen International Airport, beside the existing Babcock passenger terminals. Custom-designed for air ambulance operations, the EC135T2e helicopter is equipped with the latest medical technologies and every emergency flight will be crewed with two highly-trained paramedics.

SCAA Chairman John Bullough welcomed the ongoing partnership with Babcock and the company's commitment to provide a gold star service to the life-saving operation. "SCAA has enjoyed an efficient and effective service from Babcock for the charity's existing air ambulance helicopter and we are pleased to extend that partnership to operate our second aircraft," he said.

"The launch of Helimed 79 will mark the culmination of a three-year strategy at SCAA to deliver a second charity-funded air ambulance for Scotland. Helimed 79 will provide a whole new level of air ambulance support in the north-east and help those most in need in communities throughout the whole of Scotland," Bullough added.



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LIFELINE TO RURAL NORTH-EAST COMMUNITIES

Babcock's Richard Youngs said he expected the hard-working charity team to respond to hundreds of life-threatening emergencies from the new Aberdeen base each year. "The aircraft's capabilities will also offer a lifeline to patients from remote communities who need help with medical transfers," he noted.

Pauline Howie, Chief Executive at the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: "Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance has been a very important partner since 2013 and provides an exceptional service across the country every day.

"This new service from Aberdeen International Airport will help save lives, working alongside our two helicopters, based at Inverness and Glasgow, as an additional air resource. It will no doubt make a real difference to our patients, especially those in rural and remote areas in the North-East. We look forward to working with SCAA in the future as we look to provide the best care for communities across Scotland."