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AAIB PRESS RELEASE - Investigation progress update

Accident to an EC135 T2+ helicopter, registration G-SPAO, in Glasgow, Scotland, on 29 November 2013

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) has continued to work closely with Accredited Representatives from Germany and France and advisors from the helicopter manufacturer, the engine manufacturer, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the operator, together with other specialists, to establish the causes and contributory factors that led to the accident.

The helicopter was not fitted and not required to be fitted with crash-protected flight data or cockpit voice recorders and its systems did not provide for the continuous recording of operational parameters. As a result, significant work was required to extract and analyse the contents of non-volatile memory (NVM) from micro-chipped equipment known to record data. This, together with further examination of the aircraft and subsequent tests, has now been completed, to the extent that the investigation team may reach its conclusions.

Several weeks are still required to complete the draft final report and it is expected that this draft will be circulated to 'interested parties', as defined by the Regulations, for comment early in 2015.

The final report is expected to be published in the middle of 2015.

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