

HELICOPTER CONVERSIONS

The conversion of a helicopter interior is a complex undertaking, especially when it is being kitted out with mission critical equipment for search and rescue or emergency medical services, says Hans Valiancius Ongkowijoyo of Global Aviation Services Interior GmbH

It's a painstaking procedure, given the meticulous details required in both planning and installation. If you can reduce the time it takes to complete the conversion, without compromising quality, you are likely to attract some very discerning customers.

With successful conversions in its early years for the Government of Turkmenistan, followed by the Crown Prince and President of the United Arab Emirates, Global Aviation Services Interior (GASI) have established an elite

clientele and an unparalleled professional reputation.

When I caught up with CEO Zeydan Öncü, he told me about his latest prestigious contract. "We are equipping four Super Puma helicopters for a national Navy with dipping sonar systems, sonobuoy, radar and ESM systems, to enable long-range submarine search and tracking in both shallow and deep water."

A dipping sonar system detects and maintains contact with underwater targets through a transducer

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lowered into the water from a hovering helicopter. It's a crucial defence capability. The complementary sonobuoy system is also a core technology for anti-submarine warfare, using buoys dropped from the aircraft in canisters, which deploy when they hit the water. An inflatable float with a radio transmitter remains on the surface for communication with the aircraft, while hydrophone sensors descend below the surface. An ESM is a type of sensor providing technical information,

usually integrated into the air defence systems of mobile crisis reaction forces. The work will all be carried out in GASI's facilities in Germany and the UK.

Another new project has been launched with the Ministry of Defence of Egypt for the refurbishment of the presidential fleet of twelve MI-17 Helicopters. These will also be refurbished in GASI's UK and German facilities for delivery to the Egyptian Ministry of Defence in Cairo.