



New Rotorblade and Composites Repair Facility under construction at Ardmore by Oceania Aviation

AS THIS issue of KiwiFlyer goes to print, progress is well underway on Oceania Aviation's new Rotorblade and Composites repair facility being constructed near to Oceania's home base at Ardmore.

The new capabilities being established are not currently available in the NZ market and Oceania consider that the investment and commitment being made will fit well with their existing envelope of services.

International Partnership

The new facility builds upon an existing relationship that Oceania has with Advanced Composite Structures (ACS) in Canada, who are a market leading composite repair company undertaking rotor blade work from S300 to Super Puma. They are also a major contractor in bonded panel repair and fabrication work for airlines.

Advanced Composite Structures are supplying training to their standards and have provided Oceania with authorisation to carry out repairs that embody their specifications. Training will be ongoing to ensure currency of knowledge and repair practices, with regular visits to Oceania by ACS staff and vice versa. A technical agreement is in place with ACS, such that Oceania are kept up to date with all ACS rotorblade and composite repair technology developments.

Advantages for operators

No other companies are presently providing a local blade repair service within New Zealand and operators must rely on a process requiring their blades to be sent to Australia and further afield. There are obvious advantages to having the service performed locally, being less downtime and less risk of freight damage or worse, lost freight. There is also the significant benefit of dealing with a New Zealand company with known good practices and approachable staff.

Because the facility is being set up from new, operators can also be assured that the latest best practice and technology will be used in the care of their blades. For example, all blade balancing will be done electronically (compared to the old master blade system).

Capability and Experience

Oceania are constructing and purchasing a considerable amount of new tooling to carry out the wide range of repairs to be catered for and expect to be able to handle virtually anything required for rotorblade

for Schweizer, AS350 series, and MD (including HTC) helicopters. Stage two is to closely follow this with service provision for Bell and other Eurocopter models.

Having knowledgeable staff on the job is a certainty as the new facility will be operated by two of the most experienced rotorblade repair people in New Zealand, Jeremy Davies and Graham Boustred (17 and 30 years experience respectively). At a time when all blade repairs had to go to the USA, Graham originally began a business to do this work locally in 1980, visiting the USA every year for currency training. Business boomed with huge numbers of Hughes 300 and 500 blade repairs being required during the venison recovery era.

Jeremy and Graham have a working relationship dating back many years, having previously worked together when Graham set up and ran a blade and composite repair company.

Free Testing Hammers

Oceania have recently produced a batch of specially designed light weight hammers for testing voids in blades or composite structures. Nicely balanced at the handle point for sensitive use, these should be an essential part of any engineer's toolkit. Best of all, they are free (while the initial stock lasts). Graham invites all

NZ engineers or operators to contact him and claim theirs by email:

graham@ohl.co.nz Get in quick because the next batch will cost \$25 each.

For more information

Contact Graham Boustred or Jeremy Davies at Oceania Aviation on 09 296 2644, email: graham@ohl.co.nz or jeremy@ohl.co.nz
www.oceania-aviation.com



Jeremy Davies at the Oceania Trade Stand during the launch of the new facility at Aviation Industry Week during July.

and composite structures. They are setting up with scale in mind and a view to be able to contract their new composite repair capability to much larger organisations including airlines.

Initially, the new facility is particularly aiming at the large number of AS350 and 355 operators who have no local support available. Within three months Oceania plans to be offering full main and tail rotor blade repair and refurbishment services

FREE while stocks last.

Oceania's new Testing Hammer is ideal for detecting voids in rotor blades and composite structures. Read the article above to see if you qualify, then contact Graham Boustred to request yours today.

