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Frontline Aerospace Inc. Announces Microfire™ Gas Turbine Recuperator, Lowering Fuel Cost And Pollution.

Anaheim, CA, Heli-Expo, February 22, 2009—Frontline Aerospace announces their patent-pending MicroFire™ recuperator product family, which saves up to 40% on jet fuel for the Rolls-Royce Model 250 engine family.

The idea of gas turbine recuperators is not new; they are proven technology in land-based power plants. The challenge for aviation has been weight, volume and performance.

"Rolls-Royce examined the merits of recuperators five years ago for a military contract," said Ryan S. Wood, CEO of Frontline Aerospace. "But the technology at that time could not deliver the weight and fuel savings to make it a viable option even for the military."

Frontline has solved these problems with new technology and efficient design. In the Rolls-Royce Model 250 C20B engine, for example, MicroFire™ will reduce fuel consumption by 40%, weigh less than 50 pounds and not impact the contour lines of the helicopter. It can be installed in less than a day by standard helicopter mechanics and will only require simple solvent wash every 3,000 hours. This is a key enabling technology to dramatically increase helicopter engine endurance and reduce Specific Fuel Consumption while also reducing hydrocarbon emissions per flight-hour.

The MicroFire™ recuperator was developed as an integral part of Frontline's revolutionary V-STAR™ unmanned aerial system. "Frontline is thrilled that a spin-off product from the V-STAR™ program can substantially reduce fuel costs for helicopter operators and contribute to environmental stewardship," said Wood.

The MicroFire™ design, when approved, will initially support the Rolls-Royce Model 250 C20 and C30 series of engines for the most common helicopter airframes. For the C20B engine, Microfire will come in two designs, one for about 20% fuel savings and the other for 40%. “Operators can typically break even on their investment in 2-4 years, depending on flight hours and fuel prices,” said Wood. “Operators that have to truck in fuel or are remote may pay much higher fuel prices, and in those cases MicroFire pays for itself in less than a year.”

Dr. Satish Kandlikar, a world-class expert in foil laminate heat exchangers at Rochester Institute of Technology, said that the MicroFire™ recuperator design “is very efficient for an air-to-air heat exchanger, based on cutting edge microchannel technology.”

Jay Fryer, President of MicroCooling Concepts, characterized the MicroFire™ recuperator design as “state of the art, both from a foil laminate heat exchanger design viewpoint and chemical milling.”

Frontline Aerospace gained powerful support and helicopter industry experience through their new strategic partnership with StandardAero Limited, first announced at Heli-Expo 2009. Their agreement creates a framework for joint development and implementation of the MicroFire™ product family.

See us in Booth 661 at Heli-Expo 2009

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