



## OEM Endorse IHST Safety Recommendations at HELI-EXPO



In a ringing endorsement of the IHST safety initiative, the Chief Executive Officers of AgustaWestland, Bell Helicopter Textron, Eurocopter and Sikorsky Aircraft gathered at Heli-Expo to sign [a joint letter](#) on February 21, 2010 captioned "A Call for Action by Helicopter Owners." The letter calls upon "all those who operate our products to implement . . . the safety enhancements recommended by the

International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST)." The four areas of concentration cited in the letter are the adoption of Safety Management Systems (SMS); improvements in training; the use of advanced systems and equipment, such as flight data monitoring systems (FDM); the use of health monitoring systems; and the use of mission-specific equipment, such as night vision goggles for night flying and avionics to avoid controlled flight into terrain; and strict compliance with the manufacturer's maintenance program. The IHST has produced toolkits to assist with SMS, training and FDM, all of which may be accessed through this website. [The joint letter](#), which will be forwarded to all helicopter owners and operators, was signed by (from left to right) Giuseppe Orsi for AgustaWestland, Jeffrey Pino for Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Dr. Lutz Bertling for Eurocopter and John Garrison for Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc.

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