



## Eurocopter AS 532UL Cougar

As a result of the good experience gained with the Super Puma, in 1998 a project called Transportheleikopter TH98 was launched, covering the procurement of an additional 12 transport helicopters worth SFr 320 million. The order was for the newer AS 532UL Cougar. This 'glass' cockpit Cougar is equipped with an Electronic Flight Instrument System (EFIS) instead of a conventional horizon and HSI. The EFIS Primary Flight Display (PFD) provides information on air and ground speed, and climb and descent speeds, as well as barometric and radar altitude. Revolutionary in the Cougar cockpit is the Moving Digital Map System. A big LCD screen shows



maps of varying scale, which moves according to the direction of the helicopter. In another mode the relief of the countryside can be shown, with colours changing to indicate collision danger relative to the flying altitude of the helicopter and the mountains surrounding it. Cables and other dangerous points were also added to the digital maps, which are periodically updated. The moving map is controlled by GPS/INS with metric precision. Also in the Swiss Cougars is a Flight Management System (FMS) supplied by Canadian Marconi. Besides the direct input of navigation points and routes, the complete flight plan can be made on the Sirinam mission planning system and transferred via a data link into the helicopter. The first Swiss Cougar (T-333) made its first flight at Marignane on 15 May 2000, but remained in France for further testing until arrival in Switzerland in 2002.

This and Cougar T-331 were produced in France, the remaining 10 helicopters being assembled by RUAG Aerospace at Emmen, and all 12 were officially handed over on 27 September 2002 at their base at Alpnach. T-331 (above) was delivered on 2 May 2001 and is operated purely in the VIP role, for which it received luxury leather seating and cabin sound protection, in addition to a dedicated air-conditioning system for which a climate pod is scabbled on to the port forward fuselage. The six helicopters serialised T-332 to T-337 are equipped with fixed polyvalent air intakes. These so-called EAPs improve the employment of the Cougar in heavy snowfall and icy environments, but also allow the helicopters to operate in a desert environment where they work as sand filters. Eventually, all the Cougars will be equipped with the ISSYS self-protection system (left and below). Initially exclusively operated by professional crews from Lufttransport Staffel 6, the Cougars now serve with all helicopter units.

