**Safety Workshop at Helitech International 2016**

The vital importance of safety in rotary wing operations is highlighted by the Safety Workshop on the final day of Helitech International. Hosted by the European Helicopter Safety Team (EHEST) and the International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST), the Safety Workshop will be staged at Amsterdam RAI on Thursday 13th October, from 10.00 till 15.40 hrs. The theme will be “**Safety awareness: a changing landscape!?**”. The main focus lies on new and evolving challenges and threats, both onshore and offshore. Leading experts from various stakeholders will deliver the presentations.

Rainer Wilke (Flying Bulls, helicopter aerobatic pilot) will present the keynote lecture. The Flying Bulls flight operations are quite unique and demanding. Rainer will provide an insight into how the Flying Bulls turn those operations into safe operations.

Matt Zuccaro (HAI, president) will provide an update from IHST. The IHST initiative started just over 10 years ago, initially targeted at reducing the civil helicopter accident rate. More recently the focus has changed to reducing the fatal accident rate. After that Matt will give an overview of the Land & Live program. There’s a safety tool in every helicopter pilot’s toolbox capable of breaking almost every accident chain. But too often, this tool remains tucked away, hidden in the dark recesses of the bottom corner of the toolbox. The program promotes a pilot’s responsibility to make a precautionary landing when the flight is not going well.

Francesco Parisi (EHEST, Chairman of Specialist Team on Training) will present an update of the latest EHEST material that is available for free, such as various training material.

Stefano Burigana (EHEST, Chairman of Specialist Team on Ops & SMS) will provide training on the EHEST MARIA Risk Assessment toolkit. The Toolkit contains a methodology and a database system that supports safety studies and keeps track of hazards and other risk assessment elements. Safety studies are organised around causes, hazardous events (or hazards), consequences and safety barriers. Elements are linked together to describe cause-effect relations and to orient action.

After lunch the presentations will focus on new and emerging threats and challenges.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS’s or ‘drones’) are becoming more and more a subject of attention, especially for helicopters as they are likely to operate in the same environment. An update on the EASA UAS rules will be provided with a special view on how they enable safe ‘mixed’ operations.

François Lassale (HeliOffshore, operations director) will describe industry shared safety priorities, how information-sharing is enhancing safety, and how economies of scale are making safety more cost-effective. In an interactive session, learn about opportunities to benefit from, and contribute to, global safety activities in the offshore helicopter industry.

Richard Bakker (Netherlands Aerospace Centre NLR, R&D Engineer) will touch upon wind farms, and more specifically their risk for helicopters. The (continuing) growth of wind energy production and the increase in the use of helicopters services (ambulance, police, military aviation, offshore aerial servicing) demands attention to the safety aspects. Richard will highlight the threats, before zooming in onto the wind turbine wake turbulence and the helicopter/wake encounters.

The Safety Workshop will be an ideal platform to discuss helicopter safety issues and to further enhance the safety awareness amidst a rapidly changing landscape.

Run in association with the European Helicopter Association, Helitech International is Europe's largest exhibition dedicated to civil rotorcraft and will take place at RAI exhibition Centre Amsterdam from 11- 13 October 2016.