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Stilwell Baker Selected to Design Next Generation AFCS For the Erickson S-64 Aircrane Helicopter

August 31, 2009 - Portland, Ore. – Stilwell Baker, Inc. (SBI), a contract electrical engineering design firm, has announced an engagement with Erickson Air-Crane Incorporated (EAC), to engineer the AFCS (Automatic Flight Control System) for the Erickson S-64 Aircrane helicopter – the world’s foremost heavy-lift helicopter. EAC operates the world’s largest fleet (17) of S-64 Aircrane Helicopters in support of construction, fire fighting, timber harvesting, emergency response, and more. The AS-9100 certified company owns the Type Certificate for the S-64 and is an FAA-approved Repair Overhaul Depot with comprehensive manufacturing, maintenance, and repair capability.

“Stilwell Baker’s electrical engineering and project management expertise, combined with their avionics background, has been instrumental in the development of the new AFCS,” commented Udo Rieder, CEO and President of Erickson Air-Crane. “SBI’s engineering team is a key partner in our overall helicopter avionics redesign by leading the development, through prototype, of the new AFCS system. Their knowledge of circuit design through prototype acceptance has been invaluable.”

Erickson Air-Crane has embarked on a complete avionics upgrade to enhance the precision flight capabilities of their fleet of S-64 Aircrane Helicopters as well as new manufacture airframes. The AFCS required not just a redesign, but an understanding of new components, systems, and technology. The new AFCS consists of 8 circuit cards packaged in a single LRU (Line Replaceable Unit) designed to withstand the variety of harsh environments of heavy-lift helicopter operations worldwide.

The AFCS provides 4-axis autopilot functionality plus manual and automatic trim. The AFCS unit along with other avionics systems will be used to update Erickson Air-Crane’s current fleet. The new AFCS will be standard in new S-64 Aircrane Helicopters manufactured by EAC.

“We’re pleased to have been chosen by EAC for the design of the new AFCS,” commented Darrel Baker, President of Stilwell Baker. “The complexity and tight schedule of this project required exceptional teamwork between our two companies and some creative solutions to very interesting problems. Our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art engineering services, and partnering with our customers to enable their success, continues to be the foundation of our business and growth.”

About Stilwell Baker

Stilwell Baker, Inc., headquartered in Portland, Ore, has 15 years experience providing electrical engineering and engineering services (circuit design/layout, component engineering, prototype development and validation) to OEMs of electronic products. With over 20 engineering and PCB

design professionals, and 2 Design Centers, Stilwell Baker is a leading Contract Engineering and Engineering Services company.

About Erickson Air-Crane

Erickson Air-Crane Incorporated, an AS-9100 certified company, is the manufacturer and operator of the S-64 Aircrane Helicopter with a fleet of seventeen S-64 Aircrane helicopters worldwide and has mobilized its fleet to operate within sixteen countries since 1971. With a lift capacity of up to 25,000 pounds (11,340 kg), the Aircrane is unsurpassed in performance of Firefighting, Civil Protection, Hydromulch Application, Timber Harvesting, and Powerline Construction. Erickson Air-Crane is a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certified Repair and Overhaul Depot with a comprehensive manufacturing, maintenance, and repair capability. Erickson is headquartered in Portland, Oregon, USA, and its worldwide fleet of S-64 Aircranes is supported and maintained at its manufacturing facility, located in Central Point, Oregon, USA.