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Vibro-Meter SA
P.O. Box 1701
Rte de Moncor 4
1701 Fribourg
Switzerlandtel +41 26 407 11 11
fax +41 26 402 36 62www.meggitt.com
www.vibro-meter.com

The US Navy has selected Vibro-Meter's Auto-Fault Digital Pulsed Chip Detector System for their Fleet of TH-57



The United States Navy has selected Vibro-Meter's Fluid Monitoring Division (FMD) Auto-Fault Digital Fuzz-Burn System to replace the current capacitor fuzz-burn system on their fleet of TH-57 trainer helicopters. The Navy's decision to replace their current system was because of the advantages that the Auto-Fault system offers.

The system detects particles generated from bearings and gears in the engine, main transmission and tail rotor gearbox and alerts the pilot of impending problems. The Auto-Fault system suppresses any nuisance related potential indications by generating a series of pre-programmed digital electrical pulses of increasing energy whenever debris bridges the gap of chip detectors. Fuzz and thin particles, not related to a failure, which would otherwise cause a chip light, are removed by the current pulses. The increasing pulse strength relates to the thickness of the particles and if they cannot be removed, the chip light is turned on immediately indicating that there is significant debris on the chip detector. It is important to note that a majority of the debris remains on the chip detector for further analysis.

The Auto-Fault System also detects the integrity of the entire system including the chip detector and aircraft wiring by means of a resistor built into the chip detector and by monitoring the current flow through the entire chip detection system. The power module display indicates:

- Chip indication and applicable location.
- Wire fault and applicable chip detector location.
- Box failure.
- Press to test feature.
- Maintenance indication to applicable chip detector location. This unique indication alerts the maintenance crew that there has been a build-up of "sludge" or other particles, which could possibly create a false alarm. Therefore, the applicable chip detector can be cleaned thus preventing an unnecessary indication.

The Navy operates approximately 130 TH-57 trainers, which are based out of Whiting Field in Pensacola, Florida. The Vibro-Meter system has been successfully evaluated by the Navy and is fully certified to FAA STC requirements for the Bell 206 series of helicopters.

Vibro-Meter SA and Vibro-Meter, Inc. are part of Meggitt Aerospace Systems, a division of Meggitt PLC. Vibro-Meter manufactures systems, sensors, and equipment primarily for the aerospace and industrial industries. Meggitt PLC is traded on the London Stock Exchange.

PRESS RELEASE