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Vibro-Meter wins Rolls-Royce contract to supply Trent 900 Engine Monitoring Unit.

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Meggitt PLC is pleased to announce that its Vibro-Meter subsidiary has been awarded a contract from Rolls-Royce covering the development and supply of an engine monitoring unit (EMU) for the Trent 900 engine on the Airbus A380 airframe. The new unit, which is expected to lead to revenues of at least USD100M over the next ten years, will utilize a flexible design requiring the minimum of reconfiguration for fitment to new engines as well as possible retrofit to existing installations. The scope of application is intended to also extend to cover gas turbine engines in industrial and marine sectors of Rolls-Royce business.

This is the first time that a sophisticated gas-turbine monitoring system will be engineered and designed to operate with any engine from the manufacturer's range.

The unit will collect and process various engine parameters including vibration signals, rotational speeds, pressures, temperatures and oil debris information, linking with data from the FADEC (Full Authority Digital Engine Control) system to provide a detailed image of engine condition. Once proven on the Trent 900, the EMU may be configured for other engines.

Rolls-Royce continues to be a pioneer in turbine technology. In 1970, Rolls-Royce was the first gas turbine OEM to install piezo-electric accelerometers as basic fit -- Vibro-Meter's unique 600°C design. Since then, Rolls-Royce gas turbines used on land, sea or air have employed Vibro-Meter transducers. The management of engine maintenance requires extensive, detailed knowledge concerning the engine's precise operating condition in order to predict when repairs and maintenance will be required. If early signs of deterioration in efficiency or operating condition are detected, the possible fault can be diagnosed in advance and the appropriate corrective action planned, avoiding the cost of removing a perfectly healthy engine for "routine" maintenance.

The Vibro-Meter Commitment to Rolls-Royce

The new system's basic functionality will be demonstrated early in 2003. Enhanced versions will be extensively tested from May 2003 to mid-2004 on a demonstration Airbus aircraft equipped with a Trent 900 engine. Certification will be achieved in 2004, flight tests on the A380 will take place during 2005, with full production implementation from early 2006.

Summary

Meggitt's success in winning the EMU contract from Rolls-Royce reflects our capability to be technologically innovative and commercially flexible. This programme follows recent successes for Vibro-Meter with Boeing, Embraer, and others. Having proven our capability to win competitive contracts in the modern aerospace environment, Meggitt intends to lead the way towards more widespread use of effective condition monitoring in both aviation and industrial applications.

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.

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