

## **Field Aviation Signs Contract with Icelandic Coast Guard for Dash 8 Maritime Surveillance Aircraft**

(Reykjavik, May 7, 2007)... Field Aviation has today signed a contract to supply the Icelandic Coast Guard (ICG) with a new Maritime Surveillance Aircraft based on the service proven Bombardier Aerospace Dash 8 Q 300 Series. This contract was awarded to Field after the Coast Guard ran an international tender process for an aircraft to replace the aging Fokker F-27 maritime surveillance aircraft currently employed as the first-response vehicle on location.

During the signing ceremony, Georg Larusson, Director General of the Icelandic Coast Guard stated that “growing airborne surveillance requirements of the Coast Guard including the continuous need to protect Icelandic fishing interests, and to fight environmental pollution with an aircraft more suitable for the coming decades, have made this replacement a necessity.”



The Dash 8 Q300 Maritime surveillance Aircraft (MSA) has factory equipped long-range fuel tanks giving more than 8 hours endurance, and Field will outfit the aircraft with a comprehensive sensor suite that includes a 360 degree maritime search radar, a side-looking radar and an electronic-optic/infra-red camera pod. All sensors will feed into an integrated data handling system

from L-3 Communications - Integrated Systems.

The Icelandic MSA will have multi-mission capabilities, including maritime sovereignty patrol, interdiction, search and rescue, medical transportation and other first-response activities. It is equipped with launch tube for flares and oil sampling buoys, and Field's certificated air-operable rear door will allow the Coast Guard to air drop inflatable life rafts and paratroop rescue personnel.

“The Dash 8 has an excellent reputation for safety and durability in operating environments similar to what the Icelandic Coast Guard will experience,” says Joar Gronlund, Vice-President of Business Development of Field Aviation. “The aircraft will be converted to the full Icelandic MSA configuration at our Toronto facility, which has a preeminent performance record on projects of similar complexity and size.”

## *media release*

When this aircraft is delivered to the Icelandic Coast Guard in 2009, it will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Dash 8 Maritime Surveillance Aircraft modified by Field since the company created this version of the Dash 8 in cooperation with Surveillance Australia for the Australian Coastwatch tender in the mid 90's. Other customers for Field's Maritime Surveillance version of the Dash 8 aircraft include U. S. Customs and Border Protection, the Swedish Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard.

"All of our Dash 8 MSA contracts have been won under highly competitive conditions" adds Gronlund, "and the score card to date is pretty impressive in our favour. With today's status of 21 aircraft delivered or ordered, and more than 12,000 surveillance missions flown, you could say that we have really made the Dash 8 Maritime Surveillance Aircraft come of age."

Field Aviation, celebrating 60 years in business in 2007, is based in Toronto, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta. The company is a leading provider of aviation sales, technical services and integrated support to general, commercial, military and government communities throughout the world.

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