

Caimán, the joint venture formed by Europavia and OEM Defense Services that will support the NH90 of the Spanish Armed Forces

José Mª Navarro García, February 25, 2020



In **April** of last year we reported exclusively on the urgent tender launched by the DGAM Sub-Directorate General for Weapons and Material Acquisitions for the purchase of spare parts to support the NH90 helicopters.

This tender, valued at **11 million euros**, has been awarded to the Temporary Business Union (UTE) "Caimán", formed by **Europavia** and **OEM Defense Services** , which will be responsible for the repair and supply of components for the fleet of these helicopters , which receive in the Ministry of Defense the designation of **HT-29 Cayman** precisely.

This UTE was the only company to submit to the tender, being chosen because it was considered "the only company technically capable of developing the project from a technical point of view, and improvements of interest to the administration had been negotiated."

Europavia is a Spanish company specialized in logistics management and in the aircraft MRO, which in **2015** celebrated its 50th anniversary and has been awarded on several occasions the maintenance of rotatable components of the different helicopters of the Ministry of Defense. For its part, OEM Defense Services is a *joint venture* based in Elancourt, France, formed by five original equipment suppliers (*Original Equipment Manufacturer* or OEM) such as Diehl Aerospace, Liebherr-Aerospace, Safran, Thales and Zodiac Aerospace. Precisely among the offer of OEM Defense Services is the so-called " **On Board NH90** " which includes a list of systems supplied for this helicopter by the five aforementioned manufacturers.

An urgent need

Recall that through a three-year framework agreement (which will end on December 31, 2021), this UTE will support the NH90 helicopters of the Spanish Army, although the Air Force and Navy will also operate this aircraft with specific modifications. Last year, the tender was processed **urgently**, as the record of the NH90 support system was defined as **critical** .

The scope of supply includes components, equipment, tools, containers, ground support equipment, tools and the necessary tools to guarantee the logistical support of the NH90 Fleet as well as the related technical documentation. In the case of repairs, these refer to repair, revision and other works on the aforementioned components, equipment, tools, containers and tools. It is specified that there are elements of the fleet that are still under warranty and that this tender covers them as long as the breakdown falls outside of said warranty. (**José Mª Navarro García**)

Photograph: The interior of one of the Caymans of the FAMET (Spanish Army)

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