

# **Sikorsky Aircraft Awarded Contract by US Army to Develop Enhanced Rotor Blades**

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Designer and manufacturer of helicopters Sikorsky Aircraft Corp, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp (NYSE: UTX), announced on Tuesday (20 May) that the company has entered into an agreement with the US Army Aviation Applied Technology Directorate to develop enhanced rotor blades.

Under the terms of the USD11.4m, 42-month agreement, Sikorsky will develop a new, integrated solution for enhanced helicopter rotor durability and capability.

The company will research and provide a solution to increase rotor blade life in erosive environments, provide a reliable and maintainable ice protection system, and also an improved methodology for assessing and repairing battle damage.

The programme could reportedly results in significant cost savings also.

Sikorsky said that the company has teamed up with the United Technologies Research Centre (UTRC) to investigate potential solutions for increasing blade erosion resistance. Other team members of the programme include SANOVA, Ross Technology Corp, South West Research Institute, BAE Systems, Integran, Engineering Consulting Services, and the Army Research Laboratory.

Most of the work under the agreement is expected to take place at Sikorsky's headquarters with support at UTRC's test facility in East Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

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