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## AH+RT enters aerial firefighting training market

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A new company named Advanced Helicopter + Rescue Techniques LLC (AH+RT) has been formed in Portland, Oregon, to offer comprehensive training services covering a variety of rotary wing, aerial firefighting and technical rescue skill sets. The company, formed by a team of longtime helicopter and fire/rescue industry professionals, will also offer turn-key aviation programme operations and aviation programme management consulting.

AH + RT offers a combination of training specialising in helicopter wild land firefighting (day/night/NVG), advanced NVG rescue operations, day, night, land, mountainous and water environment flying, technical rescue as well as tactical operations.

The company is working closely with Simplex Aerospace, and aims to provide a 'one-stop-shop' service to train clients in rescue and aerial firefighting techniques.

Mark Zimmerman, president and CEO, Simplex, said: 'Offering Simplex customers comprehensive training and support services is key to ensure overall flight safety and mission effectiveness. We are pleased to be working with the experienced, highly capable and professional AH+RT team.'

Chris Hartnell, AH+RT co-founder and pilot, said: 'We formed our team based upon a recognition of needs within the helicopter industry for full-service training covering all elements of fire and rescue operations. Our goal is to develop operational standardisation in programmes to increase safety and efficiency of ground and aerial operations. By providing effective training programmes, AH+RT can potentially assist in mishap avoidance across the industry. AH+RT consists of active professionals, so we relate well to the challenges facing agencies and companies alike. Our team is constantly practicing the methods taught in our curriculum.'

'Achieving safe and effective operations has been the core of success for our team during decades of flight and rescue operations. With this experience base, AH+RT knows safety is paramount and that we have vested interest in the success of each and every one of our customers.'

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