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MEDIA RELEASE

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Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft – US Licences

The US State Department has granted the umbrella approval, in the form of a brokering licence, to AirTanker which will enable it to provide the FSTA service to the RAF with aircraft containing US supplied military equipment. Commenting, AirTanker CEO Phill Blundell said:

“I’m naturally delighted that the US Government has given AirTanker this go-ahead.

This is an important boost for our plans, and a major step forward for the project.

We are continuing to make good progress across the board in our negotiations with the MOD. We remain confident that we will finalise the contract later this year.

We are very grateful to the British Embassy in Washington for their considerable help.”

ENDS

For further information please contact Bill Clare, on 07850-933538.

Notes for Editors

1. State Department approval is required because certain parts of the aircraft are of US origin, and can be released only with US Government approval. AirTanker has always recognised that it would be necessary to comply fully with US International Traffic in Arms Regulations, and designed the project accordingly from the outset. AirTanker has undertaken full disclosure of the nature of its



- operation to the US authorities and has secured this US approval without having to change how it plans to operate the business.
2. AirTanker is obliged to register as a broker because whilst the company will own the aircraft, it will make the FSTA available to the RAF for operations as well as leasing spare capacity to airlines. Whilst the brokering licence does not per se provide export authority for the individual items of ITAR equipment, it provides the framework and conditions for future licensing of the programme..
 3. AirTanker is a UK company dedicated exclusively to providing the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) to the UK Ministry of Defence. Under the world's largest defence Private Finance Initiative contract, AirTanker will deliver a service that provides comprehensive air-to-air refuelling and air transport capabilities to the RAF using new A330-200 tanker transport aircraft.
 4. FSTA is a 27-year MOD PFI contract that will replace the capability provided by the RAF's current fleet of VC-10 and TriStar aircraft. The aircraft will be owned and supported by AirTanker while the RAF will have operational control and fly the military missions.
 5. AirTanker's shareholders are Cobham, EADS, Rolls-Royce, Thales and VT Group.
 6. Print quality pictures can be downloaded from the News section of our website at www.airtanker.co.uk.