

Air Crane Helicopter Market Value To Hit \$10.8 Billion by 2032 | Leading Global Companies and Regional Growth

Market is driven by factors such as increase in demand for aerial firefighting capabilities, growth in construction projects & surge in global energy production

WILMINGTON, DE, UNITED STATES, July 17, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Air crane helicopter market size](#) generated \$4.77 billion in 2022 and is anticipated to generate \$10.79 billion by 2032, witnessing a CAGR of 8.6% from 2023 to 2032.



Air Crane Helicopter Market

The global air crane helicopter market is experiencing growth due to rising demand for aerial firefighting, an increase in construction activities, and the expansion of global energy production. Despite this growth, the market faces challenges such as stringent aviation regulations and the high costs associated with acquisition and maintenance. Nevertheless, growing adoption in developing regions, along with ongoing technological innovations, is anticipated to create promising opportunities for market expansion in the coming years.

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The global air crane helicopter market is witnessing steady growth, fueled by rising demand for aerial firefighting, the expansion of construction activities, and increased global energy production. These trends present valuable opportunities for industry stakeholders to leverage the unique advantages of air crane helicopters. The overall market outlook remains positive, underpinned by the essential role these aircraft play in delivering critical aerial support.

Air crane helicopters serve a niche but vital function in civilian heavy-lift operations, particularly in emergency response and large-scale infrastructure development. Their ability to perform precision lifts, operate in challenging terrains, and incorporate customized reinforcements

makes them indispensable for complex rigging and logistics scenarios. Key growth drivers include the intensifying impact of climate change, accelerating urbanization in emerging economies, and the ongoing development of energy infrastructure such as power grids and pipelines. While high capital and operational costs pose a challenge to broader market access, these investments are often justified by the specialized, mission-critical applications air cranes are designed to support.

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The air crane helicopter market is segmented on the basis of endurance, external load capacity, application, end user, and region. By endurance, it is divided into up to 15,000 feet, and above 15,000 feet. By external load capacity, the market is classified into up to 10,000 pounds, 10,000 to 20,000 pounds, and above 20,000 pounds. By application, the market is classified into power line construction, aerial firefighting, oil & gas, logistics operations, and others. By end user, it is bifurcated into civil & commercial, and military. By region, the market is analyzed across North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and LAMEA.

Region wise, North America held the highest market share in terms of revenue in 2022, accounting for nearly two-fifth of the market revenue, and is expected to dominate the [air crane helicopter industry](#) during the forecast period, as North America experiences frequent wildfires, especially in regions such as California and the Pacific Northwest, necessitating the use of air crane helicopters equipped with firefighting systems to combat and contain wildfires effectively. However, Asia-Pacific is expected to witness the highest CAGR of 10.1% from 2023 to 2032, as Asia-Pacific countries are investing heavily in infrastructure projects, such as transportation networks, energy facilities, and urban development.

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Leading Market Players

Airbus SE
Aircrane, Inc.
Columbia Helicopters
Erickson Incorporated
High Performance Helicopters Corp
Kaman Corporation
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Russian Helicopters
Textron Aviation Inc.
The Boeing Company

Recent Advancements in the Air Crane Helicopter Sector

In December 2022, Erickson Incorporated marked the delivery of its eighth S-64 Air Crane helicopter to the Korea Forest Service, reinforcing a 20-year collaboration in providing essential firefighting rotorcraft. This latest delivery, fulfilling a 2020 contract, features a 2,650-gallon tank and rapid snorkel fill system, facilitating precise water drops for 24/7 fire attack capabilities. Leveraging the Air Crane's unique aerial lift capacity, the Korea Forest Service can achieve over 25,000 gallons per hour from nearby water sources to combat uncontrolled wildfires effectively.

In December 2022, the U.S. Navy granted approval for the full-scale manufacturing ramp-up of the CH-53K King Stallion helicopter by Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Corporation division. Following extensive testing and initial low-rate production deliveries to the U.S. Marine Corps, the CH-53K program received the green light to enter full-rate production. This milestone accelerates the platform's production tempo, with larger procurement quantities anticipated to drive increased efficiencies and reduced per-unit costs. Positioned as the premier asset for future amphibious assault and cargo missions, the CH-53K, boasting triple the lift capacity, is set to replace older heavy-lift helicopters as the Marine Corps retires them.

In March 2021, Erickson Incorporated renewed its vital firefighting agreements with Greece, reinforcing a two-decade commitment to supporting Greek authorities during critical wildfire seasons. The elite pilots and S-64 Air Crane helicopters from Erickson have proven indispensable in times of crisis.

In May 2020, Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Corporation division, showcased advancements in autonomous flight capabilities to the U.S. Army. Collaborating with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Sikorsky completed initial demonstrations of an optionally piloted UH-60A Black Hawk, performing essential missions like cargo resupply and aircraft rescue without onboard crew. Employing sophisticated autonomy systems developed in partnership with DARPA, the uninhabited Black Hawk demonstrated safety and reliability comparable to human-piloted operations.

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