

Air Crane Helicopter Market Size is Expected to Generate \$10.8 Billion by 2032, Growing at a CAGR of 8.6%

Air Crane Helicopter Market by Endurance, by External Load Capacity, by Application, by End User : Global Opportunity Analysis & Industry Forecast, 2022 - 2032

WILMINGTON, DE, UNITED STATES, October 16, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The global [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.



The growth of the global air crane helicopter market is driven by factors such as increasing demand for aerial firefighting capabilities, growth in construction projects, and surge in global energy production. However, strict aviation regulations and high upfront and maintenance costs hamper the growth of the market. On the contrary, increasing adoption in developing regions and technological advancements are expected to offer remunerative opportunities for the expansion of the air crane helicopter market during the forecast period.

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The niche capabilities of air crane helicopters make them an indispensable tool for certain civilian heavy lift needs - especially concerning emergency response and enabling large-scale infrastructure projects. Their precision handling, custom reinforcements and terrain accessibility simplify complex rigging scenarios. Key adoption drivers include worsening climate change effects, urbanization across developing countries, and maturation of grids/pipelines globally - which expand air crane utilization opportunities. High capital and operating costs continue to be a barrier to market access. However, the costs are justified by purpose-built use cases.

North American countries currently lead adoption with commitments to strengthen disaster

preparedness and national infrastructure. Europe and Asia-Pacific regions present strong outlooks as well amid similar priority initiatives around resilience and economic development. Europe is seeing expanded adoption of air cranes, especially in firefighting applications as climate change escalates forest fire risks across southern countries. Offshore oil/gas is another key demand driver as North Sea activity rebounds. In addition, rise in the prevalence of air crane helicopters in North Sea is yet another driver for the growth of the [air crane helicopter industry](#).

Moreover, rapid urbanization across Asia-Pacific economies is enabling focus on infrastructure upgrades and urban resilience where air cranes can play an important role. Complex relief scenarios following floods, earthquakes also spotlight the need for heavy vertical lift capabilities across the region's militaries. While affordability barriers and availability of trained personnel pose challenges, purposeful adoption efforts tailored to needs can provide air crane service opportunities in the Asia-Pacific.

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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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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 market 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.

Key Insights from the Report:

The air crane helicopter market analysis spans across 16 countries, offering a comprehensive segment breakdown of each nation's value (\$ billion) during the forecasted period of 2022-2032.

The study incorporates top-tier data, expert opinions, thorough analysis, and crucial independent perspectives.

The research methodology is designed to present a well-rounded perspective on global markets, aiding stakeholders in informed decision-making to realize their ambitious growth goals.

A meticulous review of over 3,700 product literature, annual reports, industry statements, and analogous materials from major industry participants has been undertaken to enhance the understanding of the market.

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

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