



Omni Case Study

Bell 412 Helicopter for PNGDF

Fast, Compliant, Mission-Ready: Supporting Defence Operations Through Aviation Excellence

When the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) recently acquired a Bell 412 helicopter, Omni delivered a rapid refit and upgrade to prepare the platform for military service. The project required an agile workforce capable of delivering integrated services including technical upgrades, compliance checks, engineering inspections and repainting. The team documented all work in accordance with aviation regulations and prepared the aircraft ready for delivery to the PNGDF within two months.

Challenge

An Australian company previously operated the Bell 412 helicopter commercially and required upgrades to a mission-ready status for immediate use by the PNGDF in military profiles.

The project carried several complexities:

- Configuration changes to meet defence conditions
- Removal of customised equipment used by the previous owner and bespoke hardening to ensure suitability for military roles
- Compliance in accordance with governing aviation regulations
- Accurate record keeping and documentation to ensure smooth transition from Australian jurisdiction to Papua New Guinea.
- Detailed repainting to meet PNGDF specifications
- All performed within a highly compressed timeframe without any schedule flexibility
- Failure to deliver the full project scope on time will delay preplanned PNGDF activities, increasing capability risk and impacting reputation internally and with regional partners.





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Solution

Omni adopted an agile approach and brought in specialists as required.

Key elements of the solution included:

- Leadership and oversight by experienced aviation project managers
- Rapid response in quoting and establishing project scope with client
- Mobilisation of workforce, including reprioritisation and targeted use of specialist contractors to address licence coverage gaps and maintain momentum
- Reallocation of resources to ensure availability of equipment as required in the schedule while minimising impacts to concurrent tasks and other clients.
- Integrated delivery, allowing multiple workstreams to be completed simultaneously while minimising the risk associated with third party providers

Omni's experience and agile approach were critical when the project scope expanded due to late requests to upgrade additional systems. Despite the variation, Omni was able to source and install HF radio communications, conduct an avionics upgrade, install USB clocks and a camera fully meeting PNGDF operational requirements. All work was delivered by Omni within the original project timeline.

Outcome

The PNGDF received the refurbished and repainted aircraft on time and in full compliance, enabling it to meet its operational readiness and delivery commitments. The aircraft entered service ready for military tasks including troop transport, longline slinging operations, CASEVAC, and logistic support, all key activities the PNGDF regularly performs in support of government programs in remote and mountainous regions. The PNGDF will also use the helicopter to support ADF-led training and capability development initiatives.

Omni used integrated workflows and an agile approach, deploying experienced aviation engineers, managers, and technicians to deliver the project within the original schedule and to the required standards for regulatory compliance and military utilisation.

This project demonstrates Omni's organic aviation expertise and its ability to deliver military-grade outcomes within compressed timeframes. In a highly regulated sector where technical expertise and safety remain paramount, Omni prioritises delivery for government and military clients, recognising that errors or delays carry far-reaching reputational impacts.

