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Peru Signs Deal With Russian Helicopters

By The Moscow Times

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Peru has signed a deal worth $400 million with Russia for 24 military transport helicopters, Peruvian media reported.

The helicopters will be delivered between the second half of next year and 2015, newspaper the Peruvian Times reported Friday.

The contract was agreed upon during a visit by a Russian military delegation to Lima in October, newspaper Kommersant said Friday, valuing the deal at $500 million instead of the $400 million estimated by local media.

The deal also includes a flight simulator and the establishment of a Russian-operated maintenance center in Peru by 2016, Peruvian newspaper El Comercio reported.

Peru already operates Russian Mi-17 transport and Mi-35 attack helicopters.

The sale is the latest in a string of commercial successes in Latin America for the state-owned aircraft manufacturer Russian Helicopters.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela have all purchased Mi-17 or Mi-171 helicopters from Russia in recent years.

Lima may also soon conclude deals for more military hardware from Russia worth up to $2.3 billion, including air defense systems, Kommersant said citing Russian defense industry officials.

Russian Helicopters' cut of the global market last year was 14 percent, according to materials on the company's website.

Material from The Moscow Times has been included in this report.

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