

# AW 139 Takes Off



## The AW139 Flight is established

**M**onths of hard work and preparation are finally coming to fruition with the arrival of the AW139s and the first students at Valley. Having fully established the ground school and A109 Flight at Shawbury, the AW139 Flight at SARTU is the next port of call for these students.

### High Speed

The two aircraft were handed over by AgustaWestland in April and May. Both of them were flown back across Europe from Milan by FBH, a journey achieved within a single day due to the high speed achievable by the aircraft. Since arriving at RAF Valley, the airframes have been put through their paces proving the newly written syllabi and training the newly recruited staff. In addition to this, SARTU has been relocated to provide more hangar and office space to house the new AW139 Flight in addition to the Bell 412s.

### Challenges

As expected, there have been many teething problems and the schedule has been tight to achieve the start date. A new aircraft and new syllabi present many challenges that need to be overcome by both aircrew and engineers, especially as the AW139 is a massive leap forward in technology. Even as the students arrive, the work is still ongoing to develop and establish the flight and will continue for many months to come.

#### AIRCRAFT SPECIFICATION

**Length:** 16.62 metres  
**Height:** 4.98 metres  
**Max. weight:** 6800 Kg  
**Max. speed:** 192 Mph  
**Max. altitude:** 20,000 ft  
**Engines:** 2x Pratt and  
Whitney PT6C-67C  
**Max. power:** 1680 Hp

**T**he International Paris Air Show celebrated 100 years of aviation as it opened its doors between June 15 to 21 and welcomed thousands of visitors.



FB Heliservices attended the show and displayed one of our new AW139s

