NORTHERN HELICOPTER
OFFSHORE RESCUE

The Offshore Windparks have long-term energy plans, which means that it is important to also have a long-term strategy in terms of patient care. More than 2000 people will soon be working permanently on the Windparks in the Northern and Baltic Sea.

Northern Helicopter, a Helicopter Company with its headquarter in Emden, Germany, has an AS365 N2 available as a rescue helicopter. It is equipped according to European standards and is, furthermore, capable of doing all the offshore missions:

Dual Pilot IFR, TCAS, Weather Radar, 3-axis AFCS, 2 redundant VHF radios, 1 Maritime Radio, 1 Intra-governmental Radio, Satellite Phone, Flight Following System, Moving Map, Rescue Hoist.

To make best use of the AS365's equipment, Northern Helicopter asked Moving Terrain to demonstrate the capability of Moving Terrain's brand new Mission Management System MT VisionAir X via Satellite. The Moving Terrain function caused a sensation with its Relief Dynamics showing all the aviation charts in 3D and (also brand new) the MT-Terrain EFIS: An EFIS and Vision System that moves terrain and chart simultaneuously. The exchange of data in a bi-directional way between the rescue helicopter and the mission control center is a relevant feature: The MT-VisionAir X transmits position data automatically via Iridium (Short Burst Data) to the mission Control Center. The position data is displayed on a map and converted to coordinates. This also works vica versa, with the mission control center able to send waypoints, routes or text messages to the helicopter. Voice calls are also possible.

Pilot Björn Schröder explains: "Northern Helicopter has used the MT VisionAir for some time. The MT VisionAir can be used in a two ways: Firstly as a moving map and secondly to give the uptodate position data via Iridium to the mission control center at every minute."

At the present time, Northern Helicopter is working in close collaboration with Moving Terrain to create a data base of the Offshore Windfarms giving the exact position of each windmill as well as the OSS (Offshore Sub Station). The windfarm can then either be displayed in its position in the field or it will be possible to zoom-in to a single windmill. This is an important improvement for rescue missions and it simplifies the flight-planning of the route to the location of a windmill. This importance grows when the weather conditions are bad or during the night and finally it is beneficial for the Situational Awareness.

■ WULF BERTINETTI