THE $22 MILLION AIRBUS H160 VIP HELICOPTER IS THE BUGATTI OF THE SKIES

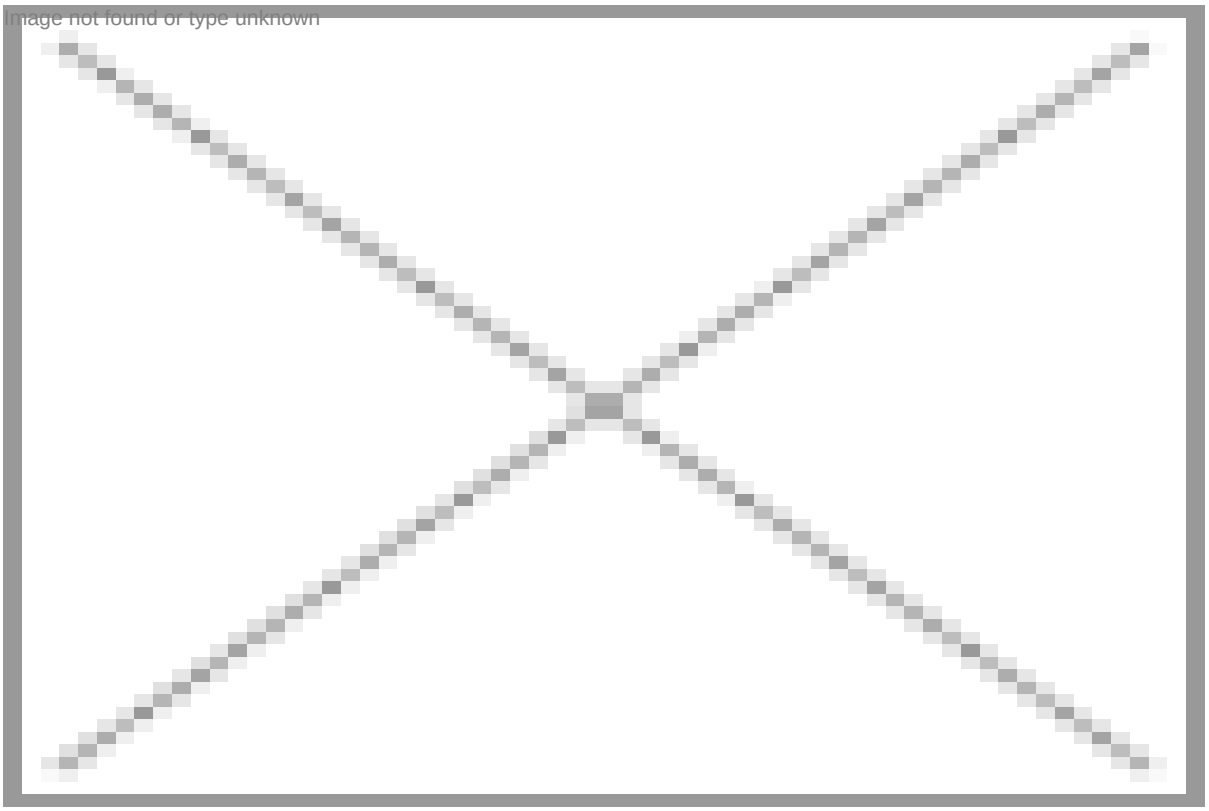
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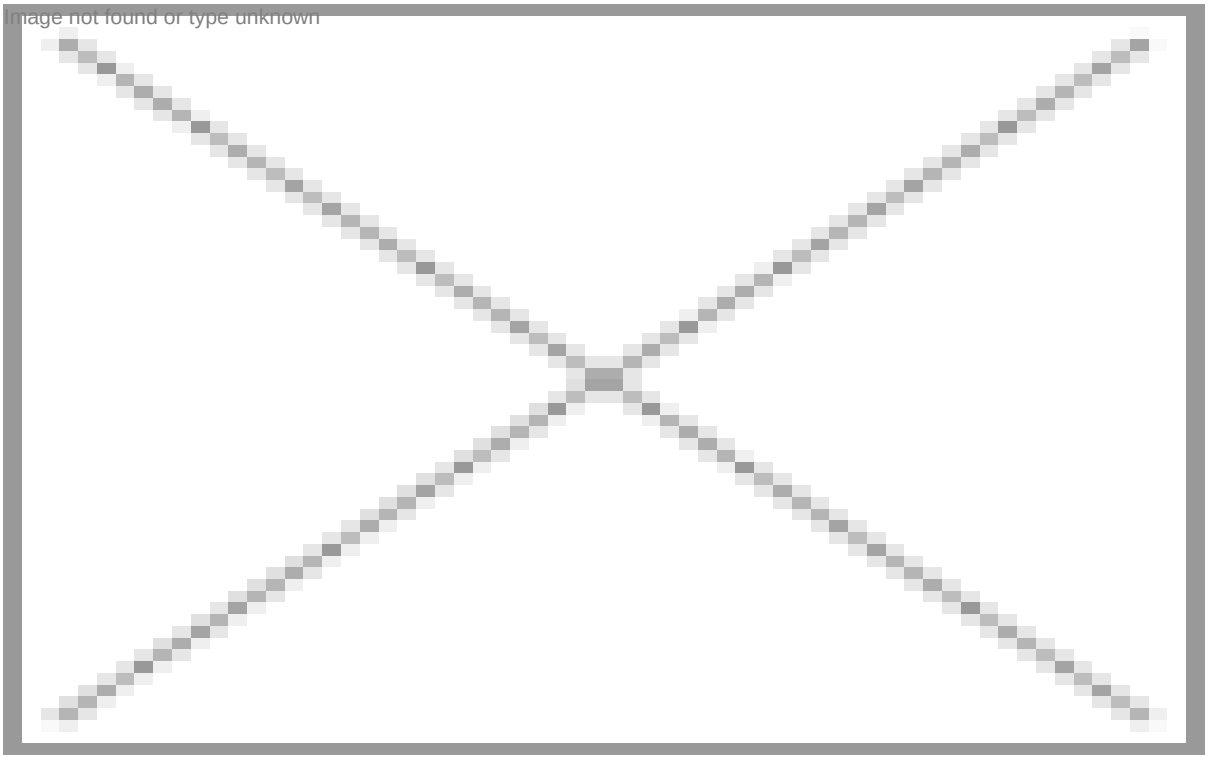
Aviation master Airbus has just unveiled the new must-have luxury helicopter for the billionaire and celebrity set. The $22 million H160 VIP is a super-luxe variant of the world's most technologically advanced chopper, and it's a veritable Maybach for the skies.

It's based on the H160, the world's first all-composite civil helicopter, a lightweight whirlybird that can cruise at a blistering 185 mph with a range of 500 miles and a whisper-quiet ride. Airbus Helicopters (formerly Europcopter) spent over $1 billion developing the sleek ride.

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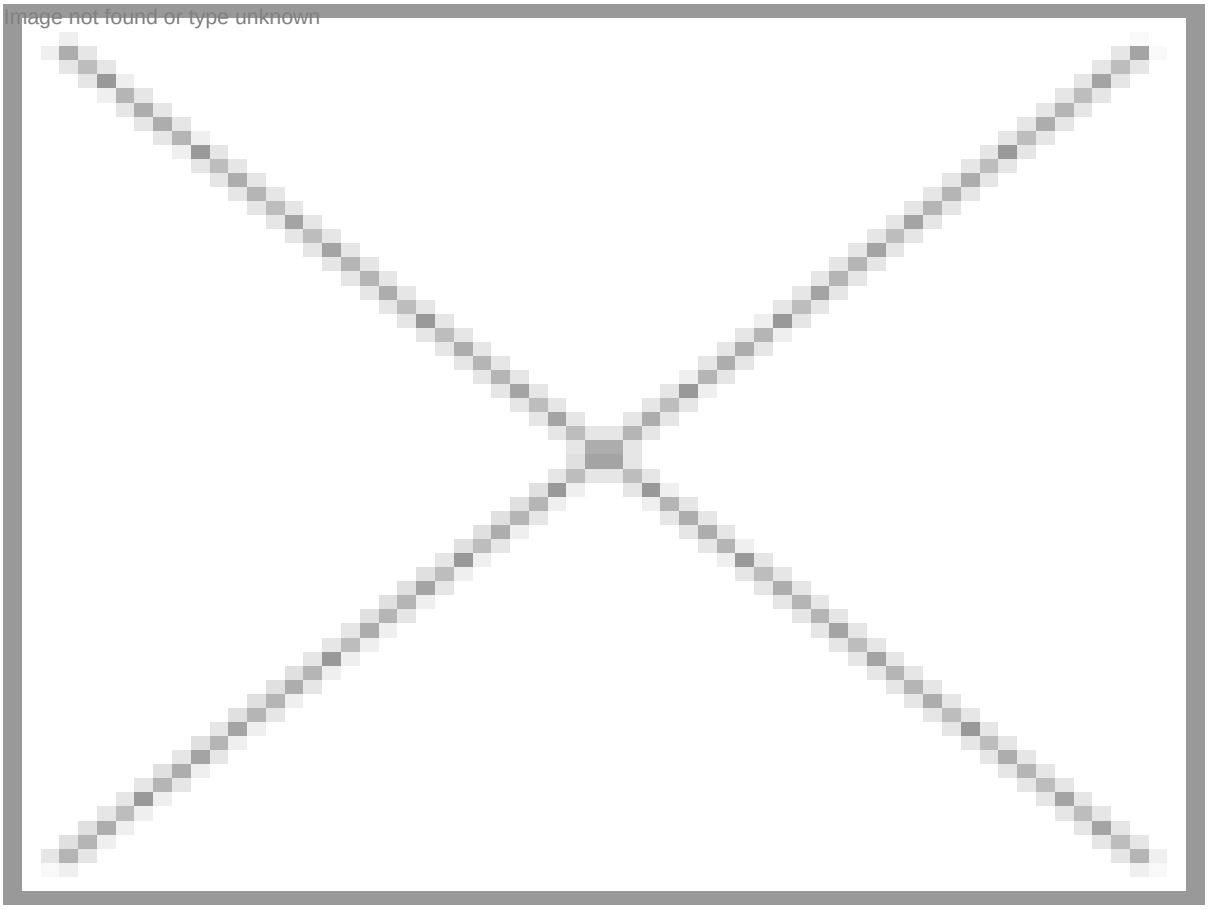
The 12-passenger aircraft features two new fuel-efficient Turbomeca Arrano turboshaft engines that create upwards of 1,300 shaft horsepower and Airbus' high tech new Blue Edge blades, which feature a hockey stick-shaped leading edge at the outer tip designed to reduce the noise generated by blade-vortex interaction.



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The interior meanwhile comes upholstered in rich leather with wood and metal accents and can be customized to the buyer's specifications. Airbus launched a design contest last fall with five top-flight design firms competing to create the H160 VIP cabin interior. The company calls the result an "unrivaled combination of innovation, design and performance."

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Orders are slated to begin delivery in 2018 while Airbus puts the finishing touches on the prototype, which has reached a maximum altitude of 20,000 feet and performed turns at a jet-like 2.2G.

Actually, make that the Bugatti of the skies....

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