



Bell 505 Testimonial Elicompany

The Right Tool for the Job



Bell 505 Testimonial



Interview with Cristian Forghieri

Co-Owner of Elicompany, Pilot, and Flight Operations Director

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND AND ELICOMPANY'S BACKGROUND?

“WE’RE VERY HAPPY WITH THE PRODUCTS AND THE PEOPLE AT BELL AND LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR RELATIONSHIP”

“Our company, Elicompany, was born in 1979 in a single Hughes 300. We moved on step by step and have been more and more involved in other operations like powerline inspection, pipeline inspection, surveys and everything related. In 2012, we began VIP and corporate passenger transport in Sardinia during the summer season. Our relationship with Bell started in 2015 after a conversation with the Bell Sales Representative and a proposal for a new 407GX. From there we’ve purchased another 407GXP, a Bell 427, a Bell 206, and now a second Bell 505 with the 505’s being the latest addition to the fleet. We’re very happy with the products and the people at Bell and looking forward to continuing our relationship.”



WHY ARE HELICOPTERS THE RIGHT TOOL FOR YOUR COMPANY?

“WHEN WE’RE LOOKING AT HELI-WORK, POWERLINE, AND PIPELINE INSPECTION, THE HELICOPTER IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL”

“When we’re looking at heli-work, powerline and pipeline inspection, the helicopter is the most effective tool. You can patrol hundreds of km of pipelines per day, on the ground this would take 10 to 20 times longer and wouldn’t be done with the same quality.”



WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE BELL 505?

“FOR WORK, THE 505 IS THE WINNER HANDS DOWN”

“To be competitive, you don’t need to offer the best tool, what we’re looking for is right tool for the job. You don’t need the best helicopter, you need the right helicopter for the job, or else you’re going to be too expensive. The more expensive the tool becomes, the less it becomes the right tool. What we’ve found is that the Bell 505 is the best in this class, there’s no comparison to any other helicopter. For our application, flying 120-130 hours per month, the 505 offers the lowest operating cost in the industry for what we do.

All the pilots that have flown the 505 have been very happy. For work, the 505 is the winner hands down because of its power. We also have the avionics upgrade with HTAWS, TAS, and synthetic vision that gives additional value that the pilot appreciates. The FADEC is a big, big big, step ahead. The younger pilots are especially enjoying that feature. They can fly without any risk of hot start or over temp. It’s a really nice feature. The rotor RPM is tuned very finely. You have really good control of the engine and rotor RPM; it’s a big step ahead. With a manually controlled engine you need to send an expert pilot, but with the 505 you have more margin. It gives me peace of mind as an operator and pilot.

We’ve been flying so much we haven’t had a chance to install any special equipment on the 505 yet. Currently we’re using hand-held devices with 2 or 3 people plus a pilot on board. I’ve flown most of those flights and am able to share my experience with other pilots. I can tell you, power is never an issue. Even at 4 people and full fuel, you can hover with no problem.

“WHEN I LOOK AT THE BELL 505, IT DOESN’T LOOK LIKE OTHER BELL PRODUCTS, BUT ONCE YOU GET IN AND START FLYING, YOU KNOW RIGHT AWAY IT WAS DESIGNED BY BELL. IT’S A SIMPLE AND LIGHT WEIGHT AIRCRAFT, BUT IT HAS THE RUGGEDNESS AND RELIABILITY OF A BELL PRODUCT. YOU CAN COUNT ON IT.”

Another thing to look at is the reliability of the helicopter. In this kind of job we’re doing, you have to rely on very precise planning, and the plan works only if your tools are available and not broken down. We’ve experienced very low maintenance and essentially no time grounded. We’ve logged an excess of 1100 hours to date. We are really happy because when we plan it, the 505 can do it. That’s why it’s the best tool. When I look at the Bell 505, it doesn’t look like other Bell products, but once you get in and start flying, you know right away it was designed by Bell. It’s a simple and light weight aircraft, but it has the ruggedness and reliability of a Bell product. You can count on it.”



WHAT MAKES BELL THE INDUSTRY PARTNER OF CHOICE?

**“YOU FEEL LIKE YOU’RE PART OF A FAMILY.
WITH BELL I ENJOY WHAT I’M DOING”**

“First off, I’ve always loved Bell product from the quality to the design. I also love the way people work at Bell, there’s always someone ready to answer your questions. You’re never on your own. Other companies you feel far away from as an operator, but at Bell no matter if it’s the sales reps or the tech reps there’s always someone willing to help and is listening to you. You feel like you’re part of a family. For me, I spend a lot of time on the job, but its not just a job, it’s a lifestyle, and I want to enjoy what I’m doing. With Bell I enjoy what I’m doing.”