

**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS****Helicopter:** Agusta Westland**Length:** 22.81 m**Height:** 6.65 m**Rotor Diameter:** 18,6 m**Max take-off weight:** 14,600 kg**Speed :** 309 km/h or 150 kts**Range:** 1389 km**OVERVIEW**

The Royal Navy's EH 101 Merlin HM Mk 1 Helicopters were originally manufactured by Agusta Westland and Lockheed Martin UK in the 1990s and designed to operate primarily in the anti-submarine role. They have recently undergone a significant upgrade and re-entered service as the Merlin Mk2, supplying the UK's Maritime Force Protection and airborne anti-submarine warfare capability.

The Merlin Capability Sustainment Programme provided 30 Mk2s with a redesigned cockpit, improvements to mission system processing, enhanced capabilities for the Merlin's Blue Kestrel Radar and Sonar system, broadened data link, and upgrades to the aircrew console and avionics, including large flat panel touch screens. Tactically, these improvements will enable the Mk2 to track 40 times the number of targets compared to the Mk1. Enhance its shallow water submarine detection and night operations meaning the Merlin continues to be world's most potent sub hunting helicopter.

In addition to the Mk2s main mission of hunting subs, the helicopter is incredibly capable, operating round-the-clock maritime patrol and interdiction, troop ferrying, casualty evacuation, medium lift under-slung loads, Search and Rescue and other contingency tasks.

The Mk2 operates with 4 crew members; comprised of 2 Pilots, 1 Observer and 1 Aircrewman, all trained to the highest standards, ready to fight and win and adapt to whatever the mission demands.

In the future the Merlin Mk2, as part of the Crowsnest programme, will also be the replacement aircraft for the Navy's Sea King Mk7 Airborne Surveillance and Control.

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