The Aviation Division of Offshore Logistics, Inc. has taken delivery of the first two SPIRIT commercial helicopters produced by Sikorsky Aircraft. The new generation SPIRIT is the first transport-category helicopter specifically designed for commercial operators.

Kenneth M. Jones, President of Offshore Logistics, Inc. plans to introduce the aircraft into service next month in the Gulf of Mexico in support of offshore oil and gas exploration and production. He states, “We expect the SPIRIT to expand the market potential for our Aviation Division, Air Logistics, due to its increased range, speed and productivity.”

Offshore Logistics, Inc. has ordered a total of 14 of the new SPIRIT helicopters having a total purchase value in excess of $15 million. The SPIRIT, formerly known as the S-76, has a gross weight of 10,000 pounds and can carry 12 passengers and a crew of two at speeds of up to 155 knots (178 miles per hour) to distances of more than 400 nautical miles (460 statute miles). Two Detroit Diesel Allison 250-C30 turbine engines each provide 650 shaft horsepower, allowing a rate of climb of 1,350 feet per minute and a service ceiling of 15,000 feet.