



Founded in 1973 by Frank Robinson, as of 2006 the company has about 1,200 employees and produces more helicopters annually than all of the other North American manufactures combined.

June 1973 : Company founded by Frank Robinson to design and manufacture a light, inexpensive helicopter for the general aviation market.

Frank Robinson with Evio C. de Oliveira
and the R22 prototype at Torrance Airport near Los Angeles, in early 1973.



August 1975 : **First flight** of two-seat model R22 prototype at Torrance Airport.

March 1979 : Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues type certificate for R22; Robinson announces R22 base price of \$40,000.

January 1981 : **100th R22** helicopter is delivered.



March 1981 : Robinson receives **FAA Production Certificate** allowing the company to do its own testing and inspection.

September 1981 : Model **R22 HP** is announced with more powerful engine, improved altitude performance, and a base price of \$59,850.

October 1982 : Safety course for flight instructors is launched to standardize training at flight schools, where R22s are widely used.

September 1983 : Model **R22 Alpha** is announced with increased gross weight and a base price of \$77,850.

January 1985 : Auxiliary fuel system is approved for R22 Alpha model, increasing range and endurance by 65%.

July 1985 : **500th R22** helicopter is delivered.

August 1985 : Model **R22 Beta** is introduced with higher take-off rating, larger instrument panel, and base price of \$85,850.



October 1985 : Model R22 Mariner is approved with fixed utility floats, priced at \$94,850; R22 sets world record for Distance in a Close Circuit for Class E-1a helicopters.

December 1988 : Robinson becomes leading producer of light helicopters, producing more new helicopters in 1988 than any other manufacturer.

January 1989: R22 sets world altitude record for Class E-1a helicopters.

April 1989 : 1000th R22 helicopter is delivered.

May 1989 : R22 breaks its own altitude record for Class E-1a helicopters.

December 1989 : 310 R22s are delivered in 1989, making it the year's most popular light Aircraft – including helicopters and airplanes.

February 1990 : New RPM governor is approved for R22.

January 1991 : New **Model R44** four-seat helicopter is exhibited for the first time; FAA certification is expected in 1992.



June 1991 : R22 breaks its own speed records reaching a top speed of 143.61 mph; Robinson receives Igor I. Sikorsky Trophy recognizing world records.

November 1991: 2000th R22 helicopter is delivered.

December 1991 : Robinson **production rate reaches all-time high** with 402 R22s produced in 1991.

March 1992 : R44 base price of \$235,000 is announced; deposits and orders are accepted.

December 1992 : **FAA issues Type Certificate for R44 Astro**; R22 is world's top-selling helicopter for the fifth consecutive year.

January 1993 : In Argentina, Buenos Aires Police purchase forty R22 helicopters.

February 1993 : First production **R44 Astro** helicopter is delivered.

July 1994 : **Robinson moves to new 260,000 square-foot manufacturing facility.**

February 1996 : **Model R22 Beta II** is introduced with O-360 engine, giving it improved hover performance, and a base price of \$135,000.

June 1997 : R44 Newscopter announced for high-quality live television broadcasting.

July 1997 : R44 Police Helicopter receives FAA certification.

August 1997 : R44 completes around-the-world flight with pilots Jennifer Murray and Quentin Smith.



November 1997 : Robinson is awarded ISO 9001 certification for helicopter design, manufacture and service.

February 1998 : First three **R44 Newscopters** are delivered.

June 1999 : FAA approves pop-out floats for R44 Clipper.

August 1999 : Hydraulic power controls are introduced for the R44 helicopters.

October 1999: 3000th R22 helicopter is delivered.

January 2000: Model R44 Raven is introduced with adjustable pedals and standard hydraulic controls; TBO for R22 and R44 is increased from 2000 to 2200 hours.

September 2000 : 4000th Robinson helicopter delivered – 3,132 R22s and 868 R44s; Jennifer Murray pilots her R44 helicopter, becoming the first woman to fly solo around the world.

February 2001 : 1000th R44 helicopter is delivered; Robinson launches new program for lightweight roof-top helipads for business and industrial parks.



January 2002 : R44 becomes the first US manufactured helicopter approved by Russia and other states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

June 2002 : Robinson delivers the first digital ENG Newscopter to Metro Networks; **the first R44 Police Helicopter is delivered to China** .

July 2002: Robinson announces the new **R44 Raven II**; the new helicopter has more power, a higher gross weight, and increased altitude performance.

October 2002: R44 Raven II is the first piston helicopter to fly to the [North Pole](#), piloted by Quentin Smith and Steve Brooks.

November 2002 : Robinson is the first US helicopter manufacturer to receive Japanese type certification.



June 2003 : First Robinson helipad opened at a private helistop at Honda of Santa Ana, CA.

September 2003: **5,000th helicopter** delivered.

January 2004: Robinson announces company sales record with the production of 422 new helicopters in 2003.



January 2005: Robinson surpasses previous sales with 690 new helicopters produced in 2004; R44 Raven II is the first piston helicopter to fly to the South Pole, piloted by Quentin Smith and Steve Brooks.

February 2005 : New manufacturing facility opened which added 220,000 square feet to Robinson, totaling 480,000 square feet.

April 2005 : **6,000th helicopter** delivered.