



PHOENIX COMPLETES RECOVERY OF TUNISIAN AIRLINER OFF PALERMO

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Washington, DC -- Phoenix International, Inc., (Phoenix) successfully recovered major sections of the Tuninter Airline ATR 72 that performed an emergency landing offshore Sicily. TUI Flight 1153 ditched into the Tyrrhenian Sea north of Palermo after both engines lost power. Twenty-three of the 39 passengers survived the crash.

The wing section of the ATR 72, with both turboprop engines attached, separated from the fuselage and remained afloat immediately after the crash. Italian divers attached floats to the section and had it towed to Palermo for inspection and analysis by ANSV, the Italian national agency for air transport safety. The remainder of the aircraft, including the cockpit and tail section containing the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, sank to the seafloor in 1450 meters of water (msw).

Phoenix was competitively awarded a contract to recover the wreckage to assist the safety investigators in determining the cause of the crash. Phoenix quickly mobilized their Remora system, a 6,000 msw depth capable ROV pre-positioned in Cyprus, onboard the M/T ARES owned by EDT Towage & Salvage Co Ltd and sailed to Sicily. After conducting a complete survey of the debris field, the Phoenix team successfully rigged and lifted all major portions of the fuselage onto the ARES. Other items including one of the recorders that had become separated from the airplane were subsequently recovered during the eight day operation.

Phoenix is a marine services company providing quality manned and unmanned underwater services to an international customer base. Worldwide operations include Underwater Ship Inspection & Repair, US Navy & ABS Certified Underwater Welding, ROV Services, Deep Ocean Search & Recovery, Subsea Construction Support, Submarine Rescue, and Engineering Design. Phoenix resources include divers and diving systems, Remotely Operated Vehicles, underwater tools and sensors, and one-Atmosphere Diving Suits (ADS).

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