Columbia Helicopters has supported oil and gas activities for more than 40 years with our first rig move in 1971. Columbia has provided oil and gas support on four continents and has moved hundreds of rigs. Columbia has successfully carried out complicated rig moves, including an 80 nautical mile (148 km) one-way move and multiple moves at or above 9,000 feet (2,743 meters). Columbia continues to meet or exceed industry standards. Whether it is a long term project or a short rig move, Columbia's support network is the best in the industry. On-site maintenance, a robust parts supply and a drive for excellence have led to a daily availability rate of over 95%.

The tandem rotor and twin-engine design of the Columbia Model 234 Chinook and the Columbia Model 107-II Vertol are more efficient than single main rotor designs as it allows all available power to support higher internal and external payloads. This also provides increased stability in crosswinds, allowing the pilots to place loads more precisely at a new rig site, which can also cut down on reassembly time of the rig and components. Each aircraft is suited for a variety of missions in support of oil and gas exploration and production.

The standard transport category, Columbia Model 234 Utility Chinook, is among the most fuel-efficient of all heavy-lift helicopters, and one of the fastest. This means that we are able to move rig components faster than other helicopters, thereby significantly reducing the down time for the rig.

Columbia provides general delivery and precision placement services. Large side bubble windows allow the pilots a clear view of the external load operation and, thereby increasing safety in construction lifts.
Columbia's extensive experience in support of oil and gas operations has established a Load Management Program that is the best in class. This program coordinates all external load logistics from complete rig teardown, movement, and transportation. Columbia provides on-site logistic coordinators who will work with all parties to ensure loads are packaged and moved as efficiently as possible. Columbia’s project managers are available to assist with your projects. These highly skilled professionals will create solutions that meet your exploration and production project goals, timelines, and budgetary requirements.

Our load management personnel are trained in every aspect of external load transportation, rigging and movement procedures, as well as operate to Lowler, ASM, and Dogman certification standards.

Rigging equipment and procedures meet Lowler, ASM, and Dogman specifications for continued service. Columbia also provides load management for hazmat and dangerous goods. A variety of end users and on-site sub-contractors use our Load Management Program services.

Columbia takes pride in our safety, personnel, performance and reliability, while providing best in class service. We regard safety as the most important aspect of aviation and we have the most extensive SMS program in the world. Our pilots and mechanics meet and exceed OGP requirements.