

Top Russian aircraft designers, directed into the helicopter field, produced one of the ultra big scale, with variations for freight carrying and passenger service. This one to take forty people. A prototype, (sent out over a stormy sea), was assigned to refuel a ship supposedly in distress. The helicopter, despite the great bulk it presented to the howling gale, hovered over the vessel, so that the fuel-pipe was lowered without apparent difficulty. It would be hard to think up a more searching test. Had the ship been in real distress it would have been easy to save the crew.

An inland test of a very different kind involved a lorry, well and truly stuck in the mud. Perhaps this was a place where some sort of towing would solve the problem. Again the helicopter was brought near (much lower this time than at sea,) while the captain decided how to tackle the job. Towing? Certainly not. A straight lift, and in no time at all the truck was airborne.

The more we see of helicopters the more wonderful they seem. The latest Russian one is no exception.