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Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: February 8, 2024

Subject: CEN24LA088, N204TX Engine Test and Examination

Attendees: Eric Vietje, San Antonio Flight Standards District Office
Brian Kold, Texas Department of Safety
Bryan Larimore, Safran Helicopter Engines
Seth Butner, Airbus Helicopters

The engine was placed in a test cell for an engine run. During the run, the engine would not accelerate above about 45% gas generator speed (Ng). The fuel control unit (FCU), part number 0164851320, serial number 937B, was removed under direction of the NTSB Investigator-in-Charge and another FCU was installed. The engine then operated normally during second test run. The FCU that was installed on the engine at the time of the accident was bench tested, which revealed that it could not achieve the test specifications for fuel flow. The FCU was then disassembled, and the FCU control lever arm, part number 0164042540, was found broken.