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ELA Introduces LSA-Category Within Europe – This Provides Two Major Light Aircraft Categories in Europe

With the introduction of the ELA 1 system EASA also introduces the LSA category with 600 kg MTOW. The EASA “Opinion” — the last development step before a new EASA regulation gets approved by the European Commission — will be published in April 2010. On this basis it can be safely assumed that the new regulation will be enforced in 2010. Pilots and manufacturers of light aircraft will have the choice between two attractive aircraft categories in the near future: the 600 kg class for EASA certified LSA aircraft, and the 472,5 kg class for Ultralight aircraft certified by national regulations.

Flight Design is convinced that both categories will continue to exist with full eligibility. The 472,5 kg class will maintain its importance, while concentrating on realistic low empty aircraft weights. The ELA system will provide a new basis for new pilots and new and modern aircraft at an affordable price. Flight Design expended a large effort to explicitly develop new and improve existing products for both categories, and will be a leading player in both categories in the future.

472,5 kg Class is Alive!

The 472,5 class will remain also in future to be the easiest and lowest price possibility for pilots to get airborne, without the need to commit to the more complex EASA licensing regulations. Flight Design clearly recognizes its roots in this category and will provide innovative products to this class also in future.

The German Aeroclub DAeC verified this category by the independent weighing of a customer CT Supralight model (model year 2010) by. With impressive low 277,2 kg of confirmed minimum empty weight, the aircraft has even less weight than specified by Flight Design.

CT Supralight, with weight optimized for this class in particular, provides a clean tailored and extremely powerful cruising aircraft that can be operated with an exemplary payload. Also the base price with € 69.072,71 (Net) matches all expectations to this class of light aircraft. Reasonable equipment packages make the aircraft a perfect selection.

Along with the CT Supralight also in 2010 the CTLS[®] in its Ultralight version remains available with a base price of € 77.391,09 (Net).

600 kg Class Initiated!

Like in all other countries that have started this class, the 600 kg class will be the new entry-level segment for new pilots with advanced expectations. The noticeable cost advantages in purchase and operation of this class, a direct result of the definition and technology of this category, makes this category a “must” for cost-conscious flying clubs and flight schools.

Flight Design GmbH

Entwicklung und Vertrieb von Flugsportgeräten
Sielminger Str. 51 - D-70771 L.-Echterdingen
Handelsregister Stuttgart HRB 222689
VAT ID No.: DE 147857992
Geschäftsführer: Matthias Betsch(CEO)-Oliver Reinhardt-Christian Wenger

Administration & Sales Office Airfield Nabern

Seestr. 30
D-73230 Kirchheim u. Teck / Nabern
Tel.: +49 (0) 7021 / 80 460 – 0
Fax: +49 (0) 7021 / 80 460 – 69
info@flightdesign.com - www.flightdesign.com



In the 600 kg class Flight Design is offering a well suited and proven solution with its CTLS[®] models, starting at a base price of € 82.612,51 (Net). The well-established market leader since the segment began five years ago scores with the best overall package and customer value. “CTLS[®] is fast, comfortable and safe, the touring aircraft par excellence,” exclaimed Flight Design CEO Matthias Betsch! The CTLS[®] can be ordered either in its basic version CTLS[®] or as the new model CTLS[®] HL. The “HL” model is explicitly matched to aircraft towing, with a base price of € 92.612,11 (Net). Both models are offered with EASA Permit to Fly and with type certificate. Type certified aircraft will be delivered starting in Autumn 2010. Starting with AERO 2010 customers of CTLS[®] aircraft with Permit to Fly will receive a guarantee for further usage of the aircraft towards the later type certification of this model. With this provision, the dream of a new aircraft can be realized today with no risk for the future.

The product portfolio in the 600-kg class is augmented with the new MC[®] (“Metal Concept”) aircraft. Serial production of the MC[®] has started and first deliveries have taken place. At Sebring, Florida’s Light Sport Aviation Expo in January 2010 a number of journalists performed test flights in the new MC[®]. The feedback was unanimous and overwhelmingly positive. It clearly confirmed the development goal for a robust, comfortable and easy to fly aircraft. With a base price of € 66.890,00 (Net) the MC[®] is a very attractive offer for the target group. Customers in Europe can now place orders for MC[®] aircraft with Permit to Fly, following the type certification of the CTLS[®] also the MC[®] will be type certified with EASA in compliance with CS-LSA within ELA 1.

Flight Design Continues to be the Market Leader in Both Categories!

With its certification activities spanning a range of aircraft, countries and markets Flight Design is the pace setter of the industry. The well established and well trained Flight Design Support and Maintenance Network makes the products of Flight Design the first choice of customers. Distributors and supporting staff for aircraft of the new 600 kg class have been deliberately selected and qualified by Flight Design in order to match the requirements of this specific clientele.

Flight Design GmbH

Flight Design GmbH is located in 70771 L.-Echterdingen in Germany. The company has been financially very successful in aviation for 22 years. With deliveries starting in 1997, more than 1.300 CT-series aircraft have been delivered and they are operated in more than 30 countries worldwide. The aircraft type CT (Composite Technology), has been certified in compliance with several requirement standards, and has been the clear market leader in all major regions of the world.

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