

Team Minimax 91, G-MWZM

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/99 Ref: EW/G98/10/04 Category: 1.4

Aircraft Type and Registration: Team Minimax 91, G-MWZM

No & Type of Engines: 1 Mosler MM CB-40 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1993

Date & Time (UTC): 3 October 1998 at 1600 hrs

Location: Charmy Down, Avon

Type of Flight: Permit to Fly air test

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Severe to landing gear, wings, fuselage and engine

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 51 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,260 hours (of which 200 were on type)

Last 90 days - 26 hours

Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries

The aircraft was being test flown as part of its Permit to Fly revalidation. The aircraft had completed the required elements of the test flight satisfactorily and was returning to the airstrip at Charmy Down. When downwind at 300 feet agl and about abeam the mid point of the 250 yard strip the engine stopped suddenly. Although well placed to conduct a forced landing onto the strip, unexpected sink on final approach resulted in the aircraft striking the airfield boundary fence.

After the accident the engine remained free to turn but damage to the carburettor precluded any engine testing. Given the weather conditions on the day the pilot believes carburettor icing a

possibility; the engine had been running more smoothly with carburettor heat applied and it was selected at the time of the stoppage.

Carburettor or engine magneto problems remain possible causes for the engine stopping but none have been identified to date. If a cause of the engine stoppage comes to light during the continuing repair work on the aircraft it will be reported in a later AAIB Bulletin issue.