



A00-135-7278

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	30 November 2000	Time of Accident		0750 Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZU-BKK	Type of Aircraft		KIS TR4	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type		ATP		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience		Total Flying Hours	9500	Total Hours on Type	3
Type of Operation		Private			
Last point of departure		FAGC			
Next point of intended landing		FAGC			

Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)

Runway 35 FAGC

Meteorological Information	CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1+1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	Nil

Synopsis

The pilot was accompanied by the owner/builder on the fourth test flight after construction and was orbiting overhead Grand Central aerodrome when the engine suddenly failed.

The aircraft is equipped with a Subaru automotive engine and has a number of engine sensors that monitor various engine parameters. One of the sensors monitors the cam position relative to the engine.

Approximately 20 minutes after take off, the owner had a “cam sensor failure” message on the lap top computer which was plugged into the engine management computer. The engine management computer is connected in such a way that it automatically cuts the engine when it senses a mechanical problem that could cause internal damage. In this case the engine was automatically switched off by the engine management computer, which disrupted the ignition.

The owner attempted to reset the engine management computer and succeeded in restarting the engine. The engine did, however, only run for a short while before it was automatically shut down again.

The pilot misjudged the high rate of sink and ended up too low on the approach to runway 35. The aircraft landed short of the threshold of the runway on a steep grass embankment.

Probable Cause

The engine was shut off by the engine management computer after detection of a cam sensor failure. The pilot misjudged his approach and landed short of runway 35.