

## INTERIM STATEMENT

### Accident and Incident Investigations Division

Accident  
- Interim Statement -  
AIID Ref No: CA18/2/3/10091



**Figure 1:** The Slick-360 aircraft, ZU-MDA.

(Source: <https://www.flyinggiants.com/forums/uploads/9/9/9/0/a140053-86-fp01.jpg>)

#### Description:

On 11 December 2021, a pilot on-board a Slick-360 aircraft with registration ZU-MDA departed Kitty Hawk Aerodrome (FAKT), located east of Pretoria in Gauteng province, to participate in an Ace of Base 2021 aerobatic display competition. The competition, organised by the Sport Aerobatic Club (SAC) ACE, was held at Baragwanath Aerodrome (FASY) in the south of Johannesburg in Gauteng province. According to eyewitnesses, during the pilot's last display sequence of the *half Cuban eight* manoeuvre, which included a one-and-a-half snap roll, the aircraft's left wing stalled twice and the aircraft, which was at a low height, descended at high speed. From the eyewitnesses' statements, the pilot attempted to pull out the aircraft to recover from the manoeuvre; however, due to insufficient height available, the aircraft impacted the ground and was destroyed. The pilot was fatally injured during the accident.

## NOTE

*All times given in this report are Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) and will be denoted by (Z). South African Standard Time is UTC plus 2 hours.*

### **Purpose of the Investigation:**

*In terms of Regulation 12.03.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) 2011, this interim statement was compiled in the interest of the promotion of aviation safety and the reduction of the risk of aviation accidents or incidents and not to apportion blame or liability.*

The interim statement gives a brief account of the progress of the investigation and should be read in conjunction with the preliminary report with reference number CA18/2/3/10091 that was published on 6 January 2022.

The interim statement is released in accordance with Standard 6.6 of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 13 and CAR Part 12.05.1(7).

The final report may contain altered information if new evidence becomes available during the on-going investigation.

Any person who has information concerning this accident should contact the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) on [AIIDinbox@caa.co.za](mailto:AIIDinbox@caa.co.za)

### **Investigations process:**

The occurrence was categorised as an accident and the AIID has assigned an Accident Investigation File Number CA18/2/3/10091 to this investigation.

The AIID appointed the investigation team, led by the investigator-in-charge (IIC). South Africa is the State of the Operator, Registry and/or Design.

*The AIID reports are made available to the public at:*

<https://www.caa.co.za/industry-information/accidents-and-incidents/>

### **Disclaimer:**

*This interim statement is produced without prejudice to the rights of the SACAA, which are reserved.*

## **Interim Statement**

On the morning of 11 December 2021, a pilot on-board a Slick-360 aircraft with registration ZU-MDA departed Kitty Hawk Aerodrome (FAKT), located east of Pretoria in Gauteng province, to participate in an Ace of Base 2021 aerobatic display competition which was taking place at Baragwanath Aerodrome in the south of Johannesburg, also in Gauteng province.

The pilot was one of the 10 participants in the competition. He had chosen and designed an aerobatic display sequence which consisted of 10 manoeuvres and had submitted this display sequence the night before the competition to the competition's registrar via email.

According to most eyewitnesses who were also aerobatic display pilots, the aircraft was approximately 700 feet (ft) above ground level (AGL) (the ideal height being 1000ft) when the pilot initiated the last snap roll manoeuvre, and was below 400ft AGL when he attempted to pull out (recover) the aircraft. However, there was insufficient height available for the aircraft to clear the ground. The aircraft impacted the ground and was destroyed. The pilot was fatally injured during the accident.

The investigator is currently analysing the human performance factors, as well as the information relating to aerobatic flight operations (particularly in a competition environment) to determine factors that may have contributed to the unsuccessful recovery from the manoeuvre that led to this accident.

Additionally, the investigator has reviewed the maintenance records and the serviceability of the aircraft. At this stage of the investigation, no adverse findings were found in this regard.

The AIID investigator has collaborated with aerobatic pilot experts and other organisations involved in areas of interest (which include flight operations and human performance) in this investigation, which is still on-going. The investigator will also look into other aspects of this occurrence which may or may not have safety implications.

**This Report is issued by:**

**Accident and Incident Investigation Division  
South African Civil Aviation Authority  
Republic of South Africa**