

*The original of the Final Report was issued in the Slovak language.
In case of inconsistency original version in Slovak language is applicable.*



AVIATION AND MARITIME INVESTIGATION AUTHORITY
Námestie slobody 6, P.O.BOX 100
810 05 Bratislava 15

FINAL REPORT

on the Expert Investigation of an Aviation Accident
involving a **Gradient / BiGolden 3 42** flying sport vehicle
registration number **OM – P704**

Ref. No.: SKA2016005

The investigation of occurrence has been conducted pursuant to Art. 18 of the Act No. 143/1998 on Civil Aviation (Civil Aviation Act) and on Amendment of Certain Acts and in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No. 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council on investigation and prevention of civil aviation accidents and incidents, governing the investigation of civil aviation accidents and incidents.

The final report is issued in accordance with the Regulation L 13 that is the application of the provisions of ANNEX 13 Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The exclusive aim of investigation is to establish causes of accident, incident and to prevent their occurrence, but not to refer to any fault or liability of persons.

This final report, its individual parts or other documents related to the investigation of occurrence in question have an informative character and can only be used as recommendation for the implementation of measures to prevent occurrence of other accidents and incidents with similar causes.

A. INTRODUCTION

Operator / Owner: private individual
Type of operation: general aviation / sport and recreational flying
Type: Gradient / BiGolden 3 42 flying sport vehicle
(hereinafter referred to as the "FSV")
Registration number: OM – P704
Take-off: Donovaly – Nová Hoľa
Flight phase: manoeuvring
Location of accident: determined by coordinates
N 48° 55'35,9 '' E 019° 14'14,5''
Date and time of accident: 30.06.2016, 11:13

Note: All times in this report are UTC.

B. INFORMATIVE SUMMARY

On 30 June 2016 after approximately 50 minutes of flight, the FSV crashed in the forested area at the top of Smrekovica Mountain while overflying it from Donovaly – Nová Hoľa towards Ružomberok.

The following committee was nominated to investigate the cause of the accident:

Lic. Jaroslava MIČEKOVÁ – Chairman of the Investigation Committee
Ing. Milan BOHUŠ – Member of the Investigation Committee

The report was issued by:

Aviation and Maritime Investigation Authority
Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic

C. MAIN PART OF THE REPORT

1. FACTUAL INFORMATION
2. ANALYSIS
3. CONCLUSIONS
4. SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FACTUAL INFORMATION

1.1 History of the flight

The pilot took off in the FSV at 10:24. The flight was progressing normally and during the flight the pilot manoeuvred a climb. After reaching a level appropriate for overflight, he set the flight heading towards the city of Ružomberok. The weather and wind in the Donovaly – Nová hoľa region were satisfactory. After about 50 minutes of flight, the pilot entered the area of Smrekovica with turbulent conditions the pilot could not handle, and after the parachute wing collapsed, the FSV plummeted towards the ground with subsequent impact.

In the search and rescue operation, the pilot was found the following day in the area of the Smrekovica mountain top showing no signs of life.

The occurrence was reported to the Aviation and Maritime Investigation Authority of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic by an authorised representative of the Light Aircraft Association of the Slovak Republic.

Daytime: day

Flight rules: VFR

1.2 Injuries to persons

Injury	Crew	Passengers	Other persons
Fatal	1	-	-
Serious	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-
None	-	-	-

1.3 Damage to the FSV

Minor damage was caused to the FSV in the accident.

1.4 Other damage

The Aviation and Maritime Investigation Authority has not been notified of any circumstances with potential claims for other compensation to third parties.

1.5 Personnel information

Pilot:

Slovak citizen, 37 years of age, holder of PK-B pilot licence, issued by the Light Aircraft Association of the Slovak Republic on 29 May 2013 and expiring on 6 March 2017.

Flight experience:

Pilot's total flight hours: 77 hours

1.6 Information about the FSV

Type: BiGolden 3 42
Registration number: OM – P704
Manufacturer: Gradient

Certificate of Airworthiness issued by the Light Aircraft Association of the Slovak Republic and expiring on 3 August 2016.

1.7 Meteorological information

On 30 June 2016, there was mainly light to moderate cloudiness in Central Slovakia with no precipitation. The prevailing cloud types were Cumulus Humilis to Cumulus Mediocris with the height of the lower base at approximately 2,000 m. The air temperature was approximately 28-30°C. Visibility was 40 to 50 kilometres. There was a gentle southwest wind blowing at a speed of 3-5 m/s.

1.8 Aids to navigation

Not applicable.

1.9 Communications

Not applicable.

1.10 Aerodrome information

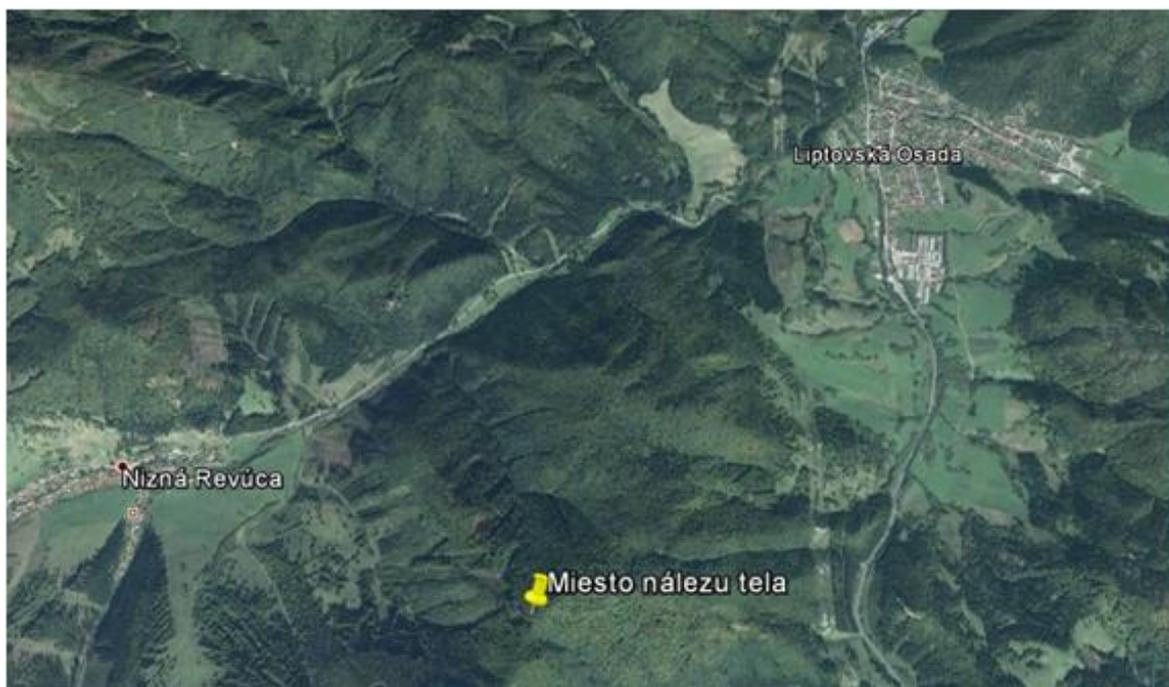
Not applicable.

1.11 Flight Recorders

GoPro camera turned on in interval photo shooting mode of 6 photos per minute.

1.12 Wreckage and impact information

The pilot landed in a clearing near the summit of Smrekovica Mountain (N 48° 55'35,9 '' E 019° 14'14,5'').



1.13 Medical and pathological information

A forensic examination indicated that the pilot had suffered multiple injuries in the fall, resulting in death. At the time of the occurrence, he was not under the influence of alcohol, drugs or conventional medicines that could have reduced his attention during the flight.

1.14 Fire

None.

1.15 Survival aspects

On 30 June 2016, in the late afternoon, the Mountain Rescue / Fire Rescue Service received a request for help in a search for a missing 37-year-old pilot. The ground rescuers from the Fire Rescue Service left for the search and rescue from the Velká Fatra Regional Centre. Assistance by the State Slovak Government from the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic was also requested, and the mobile phone of the missing pilot was located. Search efforts were suspended after midnight with the missing person not found despite the use of a thermal imaging device, and the search resumed the next morning. Twelve professional and volunteer rescuers from the Fire Rescue Service, 10 dog handlers from the Fire Rescue Service with search dogs and friends of the missing pilot continued to search from the early morning hours. Shortly after 8:00 the missing person was found in forested terrain below the Smrekovica Mountain summit. The body was transported to Donovaly by a helicopter from the State Slovak Government of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

1.16 Tests and research

No tests or expert examination of the FSV were necessary.

1.17 Organizational and management information

The flight was carried out in accordance with aviation and hiking regulations applicable in the Slovak Republic.

1.18 Additional information

Not applicable.

1.19 Useful or effective investigation techniques

Conventional methods of investigation were used.

2. ANALYSIS

Pilot action

While crossing from the take-off point at Donovaly – Nová Hoľa towards Ružomberok, the pilot entered turbulent air in the area of Smrekovica Mountain, where he could no longer negotiate the FSV, the parachute wing collapsed, and the FSV fell to the ground.

3. CONCLUSIONS / Cause of Accident

3.1 Findings

Pilot

- Was qualified to fly in the given FSV category according to the documentation submitted;
- At the time of the occurrence he was not under the influence of alcohol, drugs or conventional medicines that could have reduced attention during the flight.

FSV

Had valid documentation and showed no defects before the accident.

3.2 Cause of the aviation accident

Failure to negotiate the FSV in turbulent air.

4. SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

The final report on the investigation of the accident does not contain any recommendations.

Bratislava, 19 January 2017