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# **FINAL REPORT**

on the safety investigation of an air accident  
of flying sports equipment, type **paraglider NOVA MENTOR4 XS**  
OM L 043

**Reg. No.: SKA2020001**

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The safety investigation of the aviation incident was performed in accordance with § 18 of Act No. 143/1998 on Civil Aviation (the Aviation Act) and on amendments and supplements of certain acts, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation governing the investigation of civil aviation accidents and incidents.

The Final Report has been issued in accordance with L 13 which is the application of provisions of the ANNEX 13, Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The sole purpose of safety investigation is to identify the underlying causes of the incident and to prevent such incidents from occurring and not to apportion any blame or liability of any persons.

This Final Report, its individual parts or other documents related to safety investigation of the incident in question are only informative and cannot be used otherwise than as recommendation for implementation of measures aimed at preventing other aviation incidents with similar causes from occurring.

## A. INTRODUCTION

Operator/Owner: private person  
Operation type: general aviation/sports and recreational flying  
Type: flying sports equipment - paraglider, NOVA MENTOR4 XS  
Registration mark: OM L 043  
Take-off site: Muľa - Bukovec  
Flight phase: downhill flying  
Accident site: 48.210165N, 19.516439E  
Accident date and time: 4 April 2020, 11:30 am

Note:

All time data in this report are in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

## B. INFORMATION OVERVIEW

On 4 April 2020, the pilot, after 20 minutes of downhill flying, got a collapse of the paraglider and an uncontrolled fall to the ground.

The investigation of the causes of the event in question is being investigated by PaedDr. Miroslav Jančiar

The report has been issued by:  
Letecká Amatérska Asociácia SR

## **C. MAIN PART OF THE REPORT**

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

### **1. FACTUAL INFORMATION**

#### **1.1 History of the flight**

On 4 April 2020, the pilot started at the starting point Bukovec between the village Muľa and the settlement Hámor with an elevation of about 100 above sea level. After two flights lasting about 7 minutes, he started the third time at about 11:00 UTC. After 20 minutes of downhill flying, the pilot flew into the area behind tall trees, got into turbulence, where the canopy of the paraglider collapsed and then fell uncontrollably to the ground.

The aircraft accident was reported to the Aviation and Maritime Investigation Authority of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic by an authorized representative of the Air Sport Amateur Association of the Slovak Republic (LAA SR).

Time of day: Day  
Flight rules: VFR

#### **1.2 Injuries of persons**

<b>Injury</b>	<b>Crew</b>	<b>Passengers</b>	<b>Other persons</b>
Fatal	-	-	-
Serious	1	-	-
Minor	-	-	-
No injuries	-	-	-

#### **1.3 Damage to aircraft**

The PG was not damaged in the incident.

#### **1.4 Other damage**

No circumstances have been reported to LAA SR which might lead to any other claims for compensation of damage against a third party.

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#### 1.5 Personnel information

##### **Pilot:**

citizen of the Slovak Republic, aged 38, holder of a PK-A pilot license issued by LAA SR. He has been a pilot since 2018. According to the request for extension of his pilot license, the total number of pilot's flight hours is:

PG 30 hours.

#### 1.6 Aircraft information

Type:	NOVA MENTOR4 SX
Registration mark:	OM L 043
Serial number:	300462
Manufacturer:	NOVA

#### 1.7 Meteorological information

Medium and high clouds 1 - 2/8, visibility over 10 km, southern wind up to 3-4 m/s.

#### 1.8 Aids to navigation

N/A

#### 1.9 Communications

N/A

#### 1.10 Aerodrome information

Starting point: Bukovec - a hill between the village Muľa and the settlement Hámor.

#### 1.11 Flight recorders

N/A

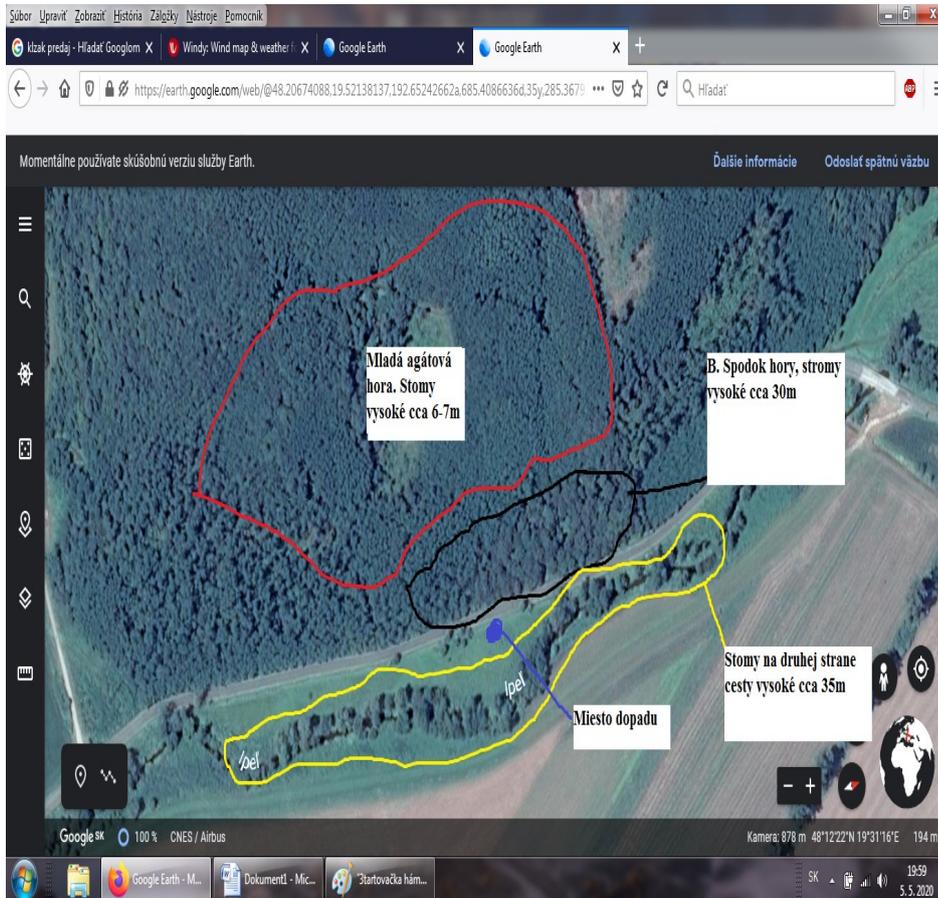
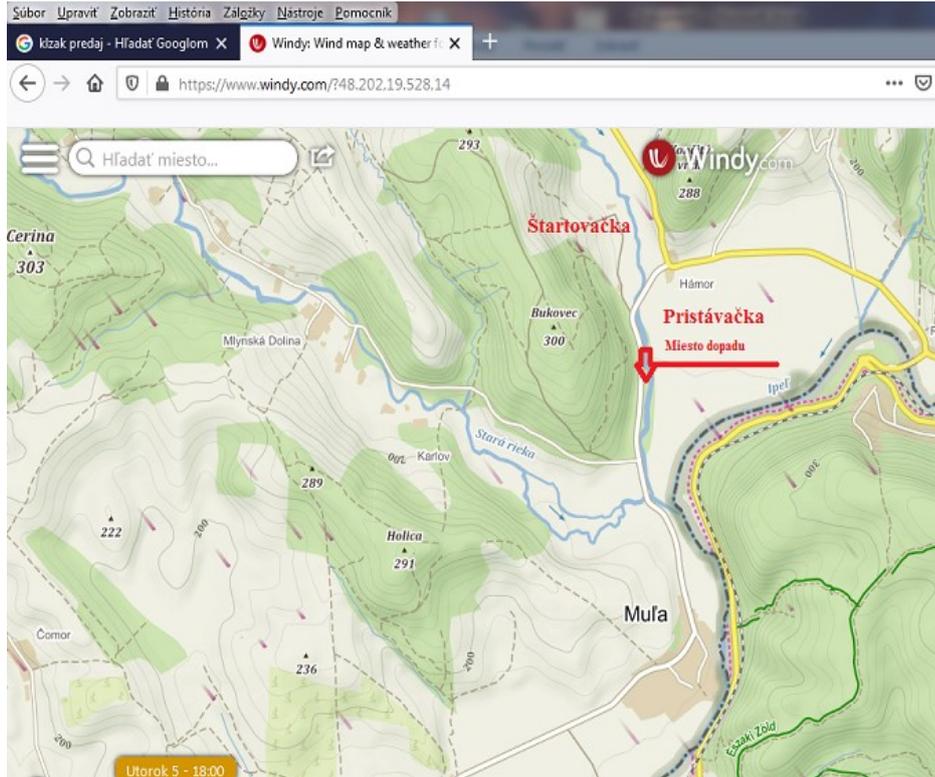
#### 1.12 Wreckage and impact information

The pilot landed hard among the trees at the road between the village Muľa and the settlement Hámor.

Coordinates: 48.210165N, 19.516439E

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### Take-off and landing site



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### **1.13 Medical and parhological information**

In a hard impact onto the ground, the pilot suffered a fragmentary fracture of the L4 vertebra and a fracture of 2 ribs. No internal injuries were detected.

### **1.14 Fire**

None.

### **1.15 Survival aspects**

It was not necessary to perform any search or rescue with SAR equipment. The witnesses of the accident were the paramedics and the members of the Slovak Police Forces called to the pilot. The paramedics stabilized the pilot and prepared him for transport by helicopter to Roosevelt Hospital in Banská Bystrica where he was operated on the same day. The pilot was conscious and communicating. He remembered the flight after the accident.

### **1.16 Tests and research**

The paraglider was inspected by a LAA SR technician. No damage was found.

### **1.17 Organizational and management information**

The flight activity **was** performed in accordance with the aviation regulations valid in the territory of the Slovak Republic, as the flying sports equipment was registered in the LAA SR, had a technical inspection and had a certificate of airworthiness.

### **1.18 Additional information**

N/A.

### **1.19 Useful or effective investigation techniques**

Common investigation methods were applied.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

### **Pilot activity**

The pilot made the third take-off from the Bukovec hill that day and after about 20 minutes of downhill flying he flew into an area with tall trees and got into turbulence. After an unsuccessful attempt to fly over the treetops and subsequently by pulling the control cord, the canopy collapsed, resulting in an uncontrolled fall onto the ground. The collapse of the canopy was probably caused by thermal currents and unprofessional intervention of the pilot in the control of the paraglider. Due to his flight experience, the pilot did not respond adequately to the situation which led to a fall. The pilot did not have enough height to use the reserve parachute.

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### **3. CONCLUSIONS**

#### **3.1 Findings**

##### **Pilot**

- according to the documentation submitted, the pilot had valid qualifications for performing flights with the particular paraglider category;
- he had a valid airworthiness license,
- he had adequate experience to perform the flight.

#### **3.1 Causes of the aviation accident**

Insufficient experience of the pilot with solving crisis situations at low heights.

Thermal and orographic turbulence in the area where he was flying.

### **SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Final Report on the safety investigation of the aviation accident does not contain any recommendations.

In Banská Bystrica on 20 November 2020