

Stuff that works!

Successful Premiere in Herrieden, Germany

Dieter's note: This report is about retractable self-launch systems for scale gliders. The German language has an elegant term for such a system: Klaptriebwerk, which literally means foldable or collapsible drive train. In my translations, I will use the acronym SLS.

Walter Peter, DMFV representative for motor gliders, and the club FMSG Herrieden-Stadel managed to pull off an absolutely outstanding event for self-launch gliders. Everyone involved and interested in this aspect of RC flying was there. Many vendors had their booths set up and displayed their products. They had well-known pilots demo-fly large scale gliders equipped with their products to show off quality and performance. Joseph Voß moderated the event with factual expertise. Eighty pilots came to this SLS meet. Between the scheduled demo-flights, there was time for open flying, but only for gliders with SLS or removable power pods. The group around AUFWIND reporters Miki and Peter Adang had come from Bruneck (Italy) and used this time to fly their „Nimbus-4“ (10.6-meters wing span) with a Schambeck SLS.

- Marcus Elicker (www.elicker-klaptriebwerke.de) showed his entire line of SLSs in Herrieden. His units shine in scale fidelity and are available for almost all usual scale sizes. The units are solidly made from carbon fiber and use fixed two-bladed props; they allow problem-free take-offs.

- Graupner (www.graupner.de) came with a large team. The new „up and go II“ SLS versions are designed for gliders between six and eleven kilograms flying weight. The tractor systems with two two-bladed folding props require a relatively small opening in the fuselage and are mounted to the round wing joiner.

- Engineer Johannes Köllner (www.jk-klaptriebwerke.de) brought numerous scale gliders. His SLSs are well thought-out, simple, robust, and reliable. Units are available for the usual offering of scale gliders. The biggest and highest-power unit, the „K25 Evolution“ flew in a „Duo-Discus“ (2.5-scale, 8-meter span) and the brand-new „ASK-23“ by Uli Hunschok (www.hunschok-modellbau.de).

- Rudolf Krause (www.krause-modellbautechnik.de) showed his new removable power pods. These power units in a pusher configuration are built from carbon fiber especially for his line of gliders. Three sizes range from the „ESTW-750“ for gliders weighing up to six kilos and the „ESTW-950“ for up to eight kilos to the „ESTW-1200“ for a maximum flying weight of about 12 kilos. The units use Kontronik motors (www.kontronik.de).

- Heinz Kugler (www.modellbau-kugler.de) and top pilot Theo Arnold impressively demonstrated the performance and strength of the 3.75-scale „LS-10“ (wing span 4 or 4.8 meters). Equipped with an Elicker or JK SLS,

the „LS-10“ is relatively compact and suitable for alpine conditions. Heinz Kugler also offers mold building with 3D-machining and laser digitizing.

- Dirk Merbold (www.merbold-electronic.de) offers an electronic control unit for SLSs. It has a number of safety features to protect the models. The functions are: opening and closing of the gear doors, extension and retraction of the SLS, release of the motor function when extended, and positioning of the prop for retraction. New with this unit is a built-in throttle, allowing proportional power settings for the motor during launch and in flight. This unit is used already by Elicker, JK, and Dr. M. Thoma. A new version for Graupner's „up and go II“ with spindle drive is available also. Dirk Merbold also showed his brand-new programming module which allows the setting and testing of all functions.

- Mathias Paul of Paritech (www.paritech.de) brought along a whole fleet of large scale gliders with power systems. A special highlight once again was the turbine-powered „DG-303 Elan Acro“ (wing span 6.52 meters). Also shown were the „Fanair“ power pods, which are becoming more popular as an alternative to expensive SLSs. Paritech's line now ranges from sport gliders, like the brand-new „Fireblade“ (V-tail, wing span 3 meters) to the big scale glider „DG-1000“ with its 8.8 meters of wing span.

- Rödelmodell owner Bernd Dörfler (www.roedelmodell.com) brought along his big „ASK-21“ (wing span 6 meters) with their own-design SLS. With its 2-piece fuselage and 4-piece wing, the big 2-seater is easy to transport. Bernd also showed the new power pod „e-fly-pro“ (www.e-fly-pro.de) for models weighing from four to eight kilograms; see report in this issue of AUFWIND.

- Florian Schambeck (www.klaptriebwerk.de) came with a large variety of products to Herrieden. He is the person whose innovative and unique SLSs with a single-bladed prop first made it possible for third-scale and larger gliders to take off on their own. And with his „EMA“ power pods, he is one of the pioneers of these affordable and easy-to-add systems. Also regarding jet power, Florian Schambeck has been there from the beginning: His „AF-Jet“ systems can power big and heavy scale gliders in third- and half-scale.

- Jürgen Schmierer (www.schmierer-modellbau.com) from Stuttgart showed his large lines of model accessories along with a sample of his models ranging from F3J to scale aerobatic gliders. New in his program is a „Fox“ (wing span 4.33 meters, wing airfoil MH-32 mod.). His

partner Isabella Fischer (www.schutztaschen-fischer.de) offered her wing bags and third-scale pilot puppets.

- Dr. Martin Thoma (www.dr-martin-thoma.com) has stirred up the scene a bit with his unique SLS. Objectives of his design are good aerodynamics and the minimal fuselage opening of only 11 x 7.6 centimeters. The latter is achieved through the arced geometry of the boom. This allows installation of his SLS into fuselages with a narrow boom, such as „ASW” models. Thoma SLSs are for gliders weighing between six and 14 kilograms.

Also present in Herrieden were the Deutsche Modellfliegerverband (German RC Pilots Association), and the two electronics specialists Emcotec (www.emcotec.de) and Power Box Systems (www.powerbox-systems.com), showing their line of electronic modules and power management systems. TUN-Modellbau (www.tun.ch) from Switzerland could not attend due to being at the aero-tow event at Interlaken.

The event set a clear signal to model pilots: a power system is available for just about any glider and any

wallet. With suitable electronic control units, these systems are very easy to use. The event in Herrieden-Stadel showed this quite impressively. All systems worked flawlessly throughout the countless demos, regardless if they were complex SLSs or simple bolt-on power pods. These manufacturers have done their home work, and over are the bad old days, when many frustrated modelers were left in the lurch with their problems.

The second SLS meet is already being planned in Herrieden for next year. The event format is moving toward an info and sales fair. It's supposed to be more tuned into the need of the individual modeler, who can observe the products up close and in detail. Also talked about is inclusion of manufacturers of large scale gliders for which these power systems are designed. Several manufacturers who missed this year's event have already confirmed their participation in 2011.

Scale glider editor

Photo Captions:

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- Bernd Dörfler put on a good show with his mighty „ASK-21” in Herrieden.
- Schambeck also is one of the pioneers of plug-in power pods. The innovative firm in Weilheim/Oberbayern is offering models of its „EMA” pods for scale gliders of almost any size.
- Engineer Johannes Köllner has been developing self-launch systems for 14 years. Meanwhile, he has one for most gliders.

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- Nearly cloud-less sky on Sunday. A whole fleet of scale gliders with Schambeck power systems is shown in the foreground.
- The new 2.5-scale „ASK-23” by Uli Hunschok (see **AUFWIND** 5/2010) with its JK SLS „K25 Evolution” showed impressive performance in Herrieden. Stefan Höllein (photo) seems to have found his new favorite scale glider.

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- Still quite new on the market are the plug-in power pods „ESTW” by Krause Modelltechnik, seen here installed in their own ASG-29E.”
- The new programming module by Dirk Merbold was shown for the first time in Herrieden.
- Because of impressive demo flights of various Paritech scale gliders, Paritech co-owner Mathias Paul was a sought-after man in Herrieden.
- Two Paritech „DG-303 Elan Acro” gliders with „Fanair” plug-in power pods.

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- Florian Schambeck also offers other accessories for scale gliders, among them spoilers for half-scale gliders.
- Lots of information all in one place was offered by this first SLS fair of the DMFV. The photo shows the booths of DMFV, Rödelmodell, and Emcotec.
- The new SLS by Thoma Modelltechnik needs only a very small opening. CG change between extended and retracted SLS is minimal.
- Classic gliders too can be powered easily with plug-in power pods. Here is a „K-7 Rhönadler” by Dieter Keipinger of CNC-Classics (www.cnc-classics.de; 3rd-scale, wing span 5.33 meters) with an „EMA” pod by Schambeck.
- Made a good team: Moderator Josef Voß (left) and organizer and DMFV representative Walter Peter.
- The booth of Power Box Systems with its safe battery management systems.
- Joseph Mögn Jr. from Ingolstadt put on an impressive show to the spectators with his „Swift S-1” powered with a Schambeck turbine.
- Heli Nägele flew impressively with the huge half-scale „Ka-6e” by Harald Weiershäuser powered by a Schambeck „AFT” SLS.