



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: June 6, 2022
Person Contacted: Steve Gustison (FAA)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR22LA183

Narrative:

Mr. Gustison is an Air Safety Inspector with the Sacramento Flight Standard District Office and was able to travel and conduct an examination of the recovered wreckage, Pyka Inc., Pelican, N605PK on May 26, 2022.

The operator reported that, the accident flight was a demonstration of the fully autonomous airplane for the company employees and family members and was the third flight of the day. During the first flight the airplane did have a pitch up nose event resulting in a 3.25 G maneuver. However, the operator did not believe the maneuver caused any damage that would have resulted in the failure on the accident flight.

Examination of the wreckage revealed that, the right wing upper and lower surfaces separated from the wing spar, consistent with failed bonds between the wing surfaces and the wing spar. The right flap and aileron remained attached via their mounts to the upper wing surface.

The forward fuselage structure was mostly destroyed by thermal and impact damage. The landing gear was separated and impact damaged throughout.

The left wing remained attached to the fuselage. Crushing was observed throughout the leftwing, consistent with impact damage. The left flap and aileron remained attached via their mounts.

The empennage was separated from the fuselage and damage was observed throughout, consistent with impact damage. The vertical stabilizer, rudder, horizontal stabilizers, and elevator remained attached and secure to their respective mounts.