EASTMAN AIRCRAFT COMPANY
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October 7, 2003

TO: Steve Groover - FAA, Riverside
Howard Plagens - NTSB
Tealeye Cornejo - NTSB

RE: Stits Flybaby - Experimental, Date of Accident: Sept. 27, 2003

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION - FRANKLIN ENGINE

On October 3, 2003, Eastman Aircraft Company was assisting representatives of the NTSB with the accident investigation of an Experimental Aircraft. In the evening of October 3, 2003, representatives of the NTSB and Eastman Aircraft began the Franklin Engine Investigation.

The following are the Preliminary findings for the above referenced Franklin Engine:

1. Upon separation of the case halves, the combined investigative team discovered Discoloration of the Crank Shaft Main Bearing Journals and extensive wear and Distortion of the Forward Main Bearing Inserts. After a brief analysis of possible causes, the combined investigative team elected to forego further investigation until a later date because all of us were extremely exhausted.
2. The NTSB representative, Ms. Tealeye Cornejo, requested that we leave the engine exactly where it was on the inspection table until further notice so that we could reconvene at a later time. Then we would perform a careful analysis of the exact cause of this abnormal wear.
3. On October 4, 2003 at approximately 6:00a.m., I glanced at the engine on the inspection table and noticed that the Bearing Inserts were not aligned with oil gallery passageways. At approximately 8:00a.m., I notified Ms. Tealeye Cornejo of NTSB and explained to her what I had discovered.

4. At approximately 9:30a.m. on October 4, 2003, Mr. Steve Groover of FAA arrived and he reviewed the findings. He then requested that we secure the engine in a container until a further investigation could be accomplished.
5. Mr. Howard Plagens of NTSB arrived at approximately 4:00p.m. on Oct.4, 2003 at Eastman Aircraft to examine the findings to date on the engine. He requested that we leave it secured in the container for further investigation.

Those in attendance on October 3, 2003:

1. Ms. Tealeye Cornejo - NTSB
2. Mr. Van McKenny - NTSB
3. Mr. Ross Eastman - Eastman Aircraft Company
4. Mr. Charles Clary - Eastman Aircraft Company
5. Mr. James Groover - Eastman Aircraft Company

Those in attendance on October 4, 2003

1. Mr. Howard Plagens - NTSB
2. Mr. Steve Groover - FAA
3. Mr. Ross Eastman - Eastman Aircraft Company
4. Mr. James Groover - Eastman Aircraft Company

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Preliminary Report, please feel free to contact us at (909)272-6614 or [redacted] Cell Phone. Thank you for giving Eastman Aircraft Company the opportunity to be of service to you in this matter.

Cordially,

[redacted]

ROSS H. EASTMAN
EASTMAN AIRCRAFT COMPANY

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