

The Czech Republic has been prominent in the aviation industry for decades, with over 36 manufacturers currently producing aircraft. This small European country is renowned worldwide for producing high performance gliders, rugged ultralights and innovative GA planes, thanks to their passion for flying and a culture of cooperation between aviation people. One indication of their nation's remarkable success is the fact that Czech aircraft enjoy a 27% share of the LSA market in the USA alone.

Company Profile – JIHLAVAN airplanes

History

In the early 90's, the JIHLAVAN Airplanes company worked with the Kappa 77 company to develop an advanced all-metal light aircraft. The ground-breaking Kappa KP-2U Rapid microlight, featuring Fowler flaps and retractable landing gear, was released in 1996.

JIHLAVAN Airplanes manufactured the aircraft for Kappa 77, as well as helping with the development of the new KP-5 Rapid LSA version. In early 2005, after financially supporting the smaller Kappa 77 company for 6 years, they purchased the design rights. By retaining the expert workforce and technology, JIHLAVAN Airplanes was able to seamlessly continue production under the new SKYLEADER brand.



SL 600

Later in 2005, they increased production capacity, started to export aircraft and began to add additional SKYLEADER models. JIHLAVAN Airplanes formed an R&D relationship with the Institute of Aerospace Engineering at the Brno University of Technology to improve their aircraft.

Current models

Over the years, JIHLAVAN Airplanes have evolved a sophisticated range of microlight and LSA aircraft.



GP One

SKYLEADER aircraft are known for superb flying qualities, high cruise speed, low operating costs and maximum ruggedness & safety. The current portfolio includes the SKYLEADER 100, 200, 500 & 600, plus the composite GP One trainer and now the sporty 400.

Design & manufacture standards

The JIHLAVAN Airplanes factory has achieved official approval to manufacture light sport aircraft under the rigorous ASTM International Standard covering design, materials, construction, engine, flight characteristics & documents of each aircraft. Their modern 3,200 m² factory in Jihlava provides the company with plenty of space for manufacturing and for future development.



SKYLEADER factory in city of Jihlava

Global reach

Over 250 SKYLEADER aircraft, in addition to many of the earlier Kappa models, are flown in Europe, South Africa, USA, South America, Asia, Middle East and Australia. The company's staff team has built up an international trade network to facilitate the export of its airplanes around the world. They now have SKYLEADER representatives in Italy, USA, South Africa, France, Germany, Poland, Benelux, South Korea, Spain, Portugal, Australia and New Zealand, with expansion planned into many other countries. SKYLEADER aircraft are promoted internationally at aircraft exhibitions such as Friedrichshafen (Germany), Blois (France), Cielo e Volo (Italy), Ansan (Korea), Zhuhai (China), Sun 'n Fun and Oshkosh (USA).



SL 400

Track record

The JIHLAVAN Airplanes company also has a long track record in aeronautical research, design and commercial manufacture, including:

- R&D for the aeronautical industry (incl. prototyping).
- Developing flight simulators for a wide variety of aircraft.
- Manufacturing and assembling the doors for the Airbus A320 airliner, plus other certified aviation sub-contracting.
- Working with the Institute of Aerospace Engineering in Brno to develop the *Marabu* UAV.
- Working with the Politecnico di Torino (Italy) to set a world speed record with the SKYLEADER *Rapid 200-FC* electric aeroplane powered by fuel cells.
- Winning the 2010 European 'Innovation of the Year' award for the *SL 600*.
- Collaborating with the Evektor company to jointly develop a 5-seater GA plane.
- Helping the TechPro Aviation team with the construction & testing of their *Merlin UL* prototype.



Manufacture of Airbus A320 doors

More information to be found on www.skyleader.aero or www.facebook.com/skyleader.aero