



PRESS RELEASE

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Tellumat manufactures flight system sub-assembly for globe-circling 900cc aircraft

“Impeccable manufacturing quality” key to success

When the *Sling* sport aircraft, designed by Airplane Factory*, completed its month-long globe-circling flight on August 27, Tellumat Electronic Manufacturing celebrated its return as much as anyone else. This is because the flight's success depended heavily on the assembly work Tellumat did on the plane's systems.

The turnkey Electronic Manufacturing Division in the Tellumat Group was tasked with assembling the printed circuit boards (PCBs) of the *Sling*'s electronic flight information systems (EFIS), on behalf of Somerset West-based MGL Avionics.

“MGL picked Tellumat for the job because of the quality of its work – which includes a turnkey range of design, assembly, manufacturing and repair services,” says MGL CEO Rainier Lamers.

The endorsement is highly credible. With an installed base of 30 000 instruments (60 models) and a monthly output of 500 units, MGL is the South African market leader. It is also the world's largest producer of electronic flight instrumentation systems for non-type-certified aircraft (NTCA) aircraft, and it makes the world's biggest range of flight instruments from a single manufacturer.

NTCAs encompass a vast range of aircraft including micro-lights, ultra-lights, most small aircraft and even home-built aircraft, some with jet propulsion despite their small size, explains Lamers. NTCAs are not as strictly regulated as commercial aircraft, because they are not licensed to carry paying passengers or commercial freight.

Future prospects

“As a consequence of its successful involvement in the headline-grabbing flight, Tellumat has cemented its relationship with MGL,” says Murison Kotzé, Managing Executive of Tellumat Electronic Manufacturing.

He says significant scope exists for a future increase in volumes and the supply of complete systems across the entire range of MGL's systems. This would mean adding a lot more value to MGL by Tellumat assuming full responsibility for the manufacturing process, including procurement, assembly and even final testing.

Lamers says that Tellumat's quality of assembly exceeded the best efforts of MGL's previous assembler, which struggled with recent industry changes.

“International regulations have recently been amended to require lead-free soldering material,” he explains. “This can cause huge problems, as the higher melting temperature of the material places stress on components and materials. But Tellumat never had a problem with it.”

The *Sling*, so named by Airplane Factory's enthusiastic public following, undertook its historic flight in July, flying west-ward around the globe and touching down in various high-profile settings. This included the Oshkosh Airventure Airshow in Missouri, USA, the largest gathering of NTCAs or 'experimental' aircraft, such as the *Sling*.



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Lamers says the flight was unprecedented for an aircraft of the Sling's dimensions (650kg carrying capacity under the newly-promulgated sport aircraft category). The model used in the flight was only the second prototype, which made it a high-risk affair requiring the highest quality engine (four-cylinder 900cc), plane design and electronic systems.

"Landing it in Oshkosh, where it received enormous attention and pride of place on display, was an incontrovertible demonstration of all that," he adds. "Everything on the Sling is top-notch. One can really only work with suppliers of the calibre of Tellumat."

**Read more about the Sling's round-the-world flight on www.airplanefactory.co.za*

Ends.

About Tellumat

Tellumat is an innovative, black empowered, South African technology company that has achieved a BBBEE Status Level 4 rating, defined as "Superior Contributor to BEE" in terms of the DTI's Codes of Good Practice. It consists of three major trading divisions; Communications, Defence and Contract Manufacturing, and three partly owned companies; SIA Solutions (Pty) Ltd, Encee Engineering (Pty) Ltd and SIMpill (Pty) Ltd. Tellumat services three primary market areas, namely wireless voice and data communications, defence communication systems and high precision electronic and mechanical manufacturing. Tellumat is a world-class business focused on innovation, offering our customers dynamic and competitive technology products and services. We focus on understanding our customers' needs and forming long-term strategic alliances with likeminded enterprises worldwide.

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