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New horizon for Aussie Aviation

VIC NEWS

Italian-built Blackshape Prime could help ensure safety of Victoria's rookie pilots

Aaron Langmaid, Herald Sun

December 13, 2017 5:45pm

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A SLEEK new recreational plane, which has been dubbed the



A SLEEK new recreational plane, which has been dubbed the Ferrari of the sky, could prove just the stocking filler for anybody with a little cash to splash this Christmas.

But experts say it could also save the lives of rookie Victorian pilots.

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The Blackshape Prime comes complete with a ballistic parachute designed to lower the entire plane and its occupants to the ground if things go awry after any sign of trouble.

PLA Aviation Services director Nic Waugh, the first Aussie owner of the plane — which has more bells and whistles than any other recreational plane of its kind, said there was no need to worry about safety.



Nic Waugh in a hangar with his Blackshape Prime. Picture: Jay Town

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The Blackshape Prime with pilot Ian Loveridge and journalist Aaron Langmaid in the passenger seat. Picture: Jay Town



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📷 Inside the Blackshape Prime. Picture: Jay Town

The passionate pilot said there would be a lot of interest in the plane, despite its \$280,000 price tag.

“It’s fast, it’s a little bit sexy and it’s Italian,” Mr Waugh said.

“It’s a pilot’s aircraft. It would suit any commercial pilots who want to have a bit of fun on the weekend or entrepreneurs who want to get around the country a little bit faster.”



📷 The Blackshape Prime with pilot Ian Loveridge and journalist Aaron Langmaid in the passenger seat. Picture: Jay Town



📷 The plane takes off in front of the Peninsula Aero Club clubhouse. Picture: Jay Town





📷 Pilot Ian Loveridge in the plane. Picture: Jay Town

Capable of reaching speeds of up to 300kmh, the plane could have you in Apollo Bay from Melbourne in less than 20 minutes. It has the capacity to fly non-stop as far as Brisbane.

Mr Waugh said the plane, made almost completely from carbon fibre, could create more speed through its tandem seating and narrow design.

He said the plane was perfect for cutting commuter time.

“It’s the end of gruelling commutes, overnights, missed flights and security check in — all the things that we don’t like about flying,” he said.

plaaviation.com.au

