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Date: 5/22/23

Subject: ERA23LA159

Contact: Scott Marshall, FAA ATL FSDO

Mr. Marshall was interviewed via telephone. He stated that he is the POI for Auburn University (operator). BHM FSDO completed an accident investigation and Mr. Marshall followed up with the operator regarding the accident.

The student pilot performed the first short field landing and the flight instructor was demonstrating the second short field landing to the student pilot. According to Garmin primary flight display data, the airplane slowed to 25 knots indicated airspeed in the flare/ground effect when the pilot added power to reject the landing; however, the airplane still landed hard. Further review of the Garmin data revealed that there was no interruption in engine power.

The engine power issue that the pilot reported had happened the prior day was a fouled spark plug, which the operator corrected before the accident flight.

Mr. Marshall will forward me the Garmin data.