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WPR

Date: September 20, 2022
Subject: WPR22LA352, phone interview
Contact: Yuliang Xie, pilot

This is a summary of the phone interview that took place on September 20, 2022, about 0827 PDT, with the accident pilot:

The pilot reported that he recently purchased the experimental airplane 1 month prior to the accident flight. He was on a cross-country trip that started on August 28, 2022, in Isabell Field Airport (4A9) in Fort Payne, Alabama. The pilot stated that he was on a return flight to 4A9 which started in Cle Elum Municipal Airport (S93). He had an intermediate stop at Hunt Field Airport and about 0.7 hours after departure, about 9,500 ft msl, the empennage and tailcone area was shaking violently up and down. He then made the decision to initiate a forced landing and found a sloped/uneven terrain. During the touchdown, the airplane bounced and landed hard. Subsequently, the airplane nosed over and impacted terrain.

The pilot explained that about 7 years prior to the accident, the previous owner installed a Suzuki G-13BB engine, an engine that came from a car, to include another engine frame. He added that he believed the engine and frame were too heavy for the airframe. However, he stated that this was the first time the engine started to violently shake.

The pilot further added that his visa was set to expire in about 2 weeks and was set to return to his home country. He added that he did not want the wreckage anymore and left it with the local resident that helped him with assistance and recovery of the airplane from the field.