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SOLOY'S CESSNA 206 MARK 2 MAKES FIRST FLIGHT

Some twenty years on since the introduction of the Soloy Turbine Cessna 206 MK 1, the new MK 2 took to the air today from Soloy's facility at Olympia airport. The MK 2 is powered by the Rolls-Royce 250-B17F, a 450 shp rated turbo-prop and R-R's latest derivative of their powerful, lightweight engine. Significantly lighter than the standard 206H and with almost 50% more power, the anticipated performance improvement was realized as soon as power was applied during takeoff.

Although complete testing will be required to show compliance with the certification regulations, there were no abnormal control characteristics present over the speed and power envelope covered during the first two flights. True airspeed at 12,000 ft was 209 mph, obtained at MCP and a fuel consumption of 28 gph.

The MK 2 will have more payload than the MK 1 and, with reduced drag, much improved cruise performance. It will also be an excellent law enforcement platform, having the ability to patrol very quietly at an operating cost much lower than all current turbine power fixed wing and a fraction of that for rotary winged aircraft.

The prototype equipped with Soloy's observer seat, improved interior headliner and left side observer window will make its first public appearance at the EAA Air Venture in July in the Rolls-Royce booth.

Soloy has been manufacturing, modifying and certifying aircraft engine conversions for over 35 years utilizing Rolls-Royce, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Continental and Honeywell engines.

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