

PRODUCTS IN ACTION

FAA Approval for Divinycell-Cored Cirrus Aircraft



The Cirrus is the first pvc sandwich aircraft to be FAA certified.

Cirrus Design Corporation of Duluth, Minnesota is using DIAB core materials to produce the first aircraft manufactured from structural foam sandwich that has been fully certified by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). All primary structures (wing skins, spars, ribs, fuselage skins, firewall, bulkheads, floors, ribs and longerons, cowling, fairings, horizontal skins, ribs and spars) are manufactured from Divinycell® HT 70 sandwich composite. Production at the corporation's purpose-built manufacturing facility is currently running at 2.5 aircraft per week.

The Cirrus SR20 is considered by many to be very much the standard bearer for a new generation of light aircraft, setting, as it does, new levels of performance, comfort and safety. A low drag design coupled with a 200 hp, six cylinder, fuel injected engine gives the SR20 a cruising speed of 160 knots at 8,000 ft. Its spacious, wide-bodied cabin is fitted out to the same level as a luxury car and provides ample room for four adult passengers. A full range of electronic instrumentation is provided as standard including a global positioning system (GPS) with a moving map display. Another special safety feature of the SR20 is the inclusion of an emergency parachute - for the plane and passengers!

The design philosophy for the SR20 was to build the most comfortable, four seater aircraft ever produced while at the same time achieving exceptional aerodynamic performance. Producing a relatively wide-body (1.25 metres) with a low-drag coefficient required slippery-smooth shapes and high definition laminar flow airfoils.

