

# FLYING®

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## Mooney Offers 310-hp Upgrade

FACTORY MOD

Owners of Mooney M20R Ovation and M20S Eagle models can get a power boost from 280 hp to 310 hp. The modification, performed under an STC developed by Midwest M20 Mooney and PowerLite, can be performed at Midwest's Illinois facility or at the Mooney factory in Kerrville, Texas. The modification, says Mooney, increases static thrust by up to 70 percent, thanks to the increased horsepower and the installation of a three-blade propeller. With the mod, the Ovation 2 can produce 75 percent power up to 10,500 feet, while enjoying improved takeoff performance and decreased landing float. Cost of the modification is \$25,000 for airplanes that require a switch to the three-blade prop and \$17,500 for those that already have a three-blader. The STC is good for around 380 Mooney airplanes in the active fleet. For more information, visit [mooney.com](http://mooney.com).

keep a careful lookout for airplanes damaged by the hurricanes of the last couple of years. The year 2005 alone set a record with 26 named storms, and in 2004 Florida suffered several major hurricanes, which took a heavy toll on that state's airports. In all, over the past couple of years, hundreds of airplanes have been damaged by wind, flood water, or both.

While it's perfectly legal to repair aircraft damaged in a hurricane, the FAA cautions buyers to carefully check the damage history of any airplane they're considering buying and to educate themselves about the long-term effects that immersion in water, especially salt water, can have on aircraft structures.

The FAA maintains a list of links to advisory circulars that deal with flood damaged airplanes, airplanes with serious corrosion issues and older airplanes in general.

For more information, visit [faasafety.gov/hottopics.aspx?id=37](http://faasafety.gov/hottopics.aspx?id=37).

FLYING CAR

## Terrafugia Formed to Develop Flying Car

It's been done before—although never terribly successfully—but once again the idea of a road-able-airplane is gathering momentum. Students at MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics have formed Terrafugia ("escape from land") to design and develop an airplane, dubbed Transition, with folding wings that can be driven on the road. The impetus for

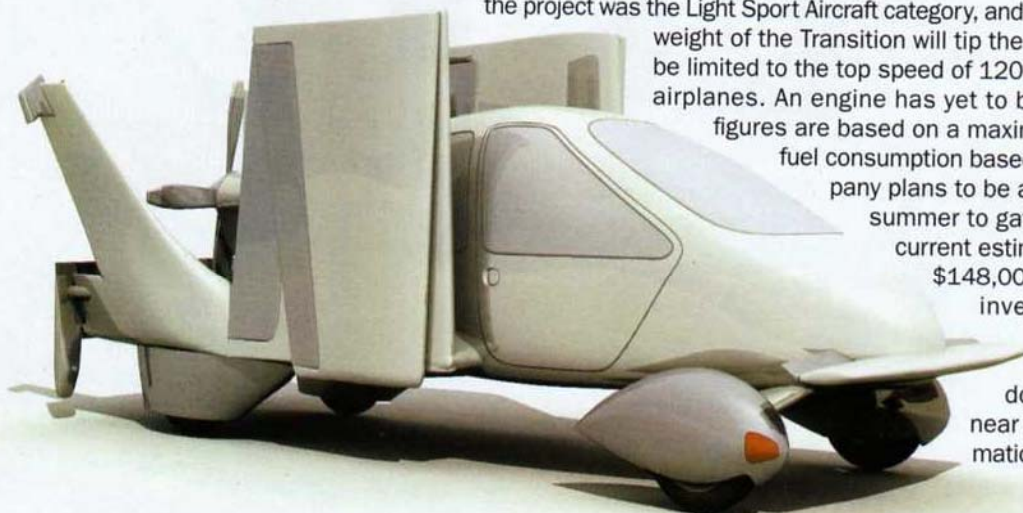
the project was the Light Sport Aircraft category, and to meet the requirements, the weight of the Transition will tip the scales at 1,320 pounds and be limited to the top speed of 120 knots that is allowed for LSA airplanes. An engine has yet to be selected, but preliminary figures are based on a maximum of 100 horsepower and

fuel consumption based on the Rotax 912. The company plans to be at AirVenture at Oshkosh this summer to gather input and deposits. The

current estimated price for a Transition is \$148,000. If it can attract the required investments and successfully

complete certification, the Transition could be coming

down a highway—or airway—near you in 2009. For more information, go to [terrafugia.com](http://terrafugia.com).



TERRAFUGIA/BENJAMIN SCHWEIGERT