



Weper-Göttingen

TOW-TEST-DRONE OR/ODER SCHLEPPDROHNE

Eine Idee von Bodo Rengshausen-Fischbach und Georg E. Koppenwallner / plotter
Im DLR durch die SKA-Messung und die Erfahrung mit den Antrieben gereift.
(basiert auf einem Vortrag 2022 bei STAB gehalten)

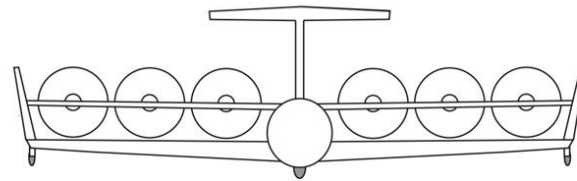
TOW-TEST-DRONE

LOW ENERGY AERO TOW



looking for
cooperation partners
for development and marketing
of OTW=over the wing UAVs

TOW-Planes Large and strong or small and UL



Typical tow planes: Let- Z -37A, Remoqueur, Morane, Bristell-23, Rans S7 (example of the lecture) below as a drawing:
Topic of the lecture: Sketch of a tow drone

TABLE of CONTENTS

- OTW = over the wing propeller (retractable)
- History Aerotow and towplanes
- Estimation climb rate : SF34 – Rans-S7
SF-34 - SD 1 Schleppdrohne = tow-drone
- Tow-drone not only for gliders
- Test-drone for STOL or nearly VSTOL
- Summary

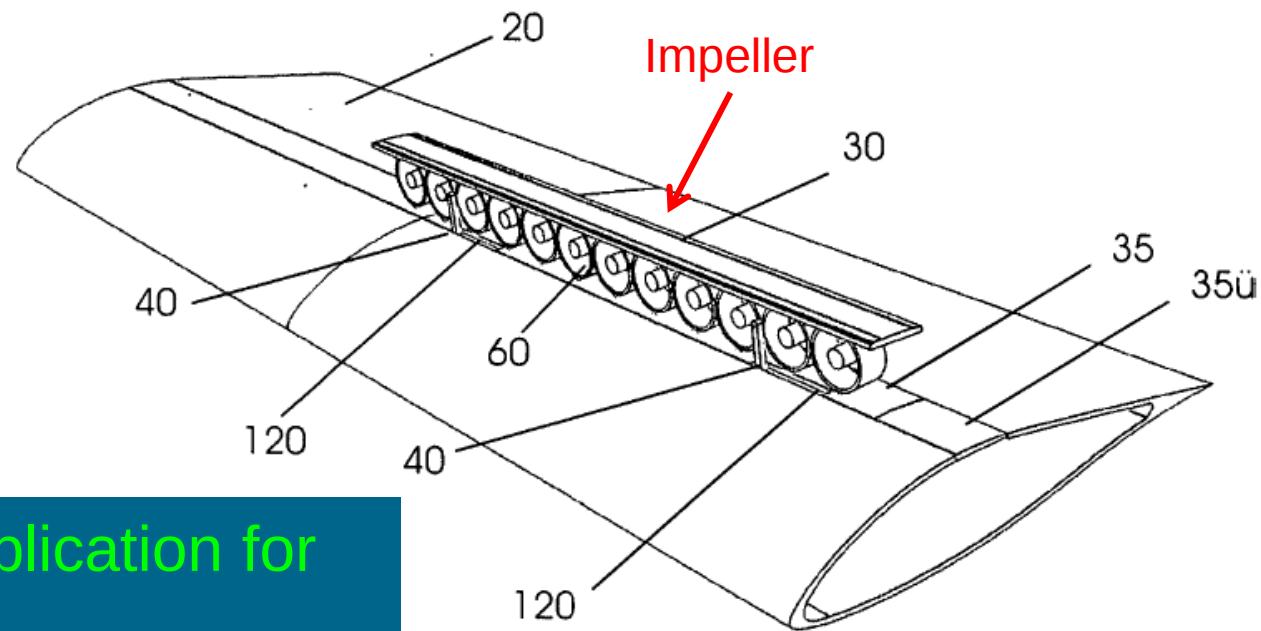


Schubklappe retractable wing impeller (like airbrakes)

OTW – DE 10 2016 010 216 A1 Impeller-Schubklappe-ISK

Idea: **Re/Extraction** of Impeller – groups instead of airbrakes – my first view impression of early Lilium jet

Fig. 11



Application for
blown elevator

Fig. 7

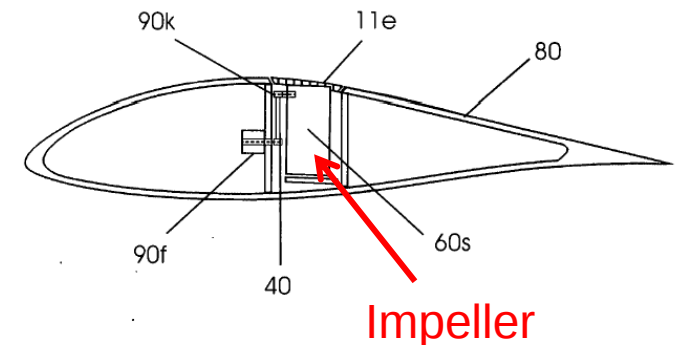
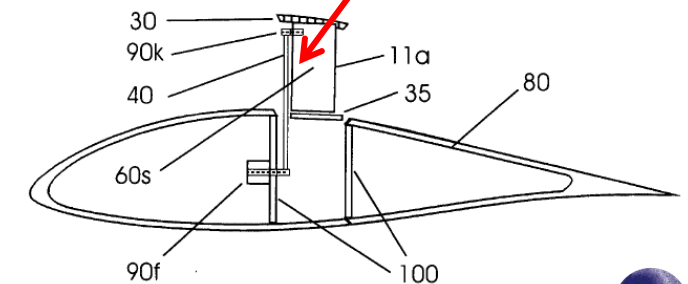


Fig. 8



Schubklappe retractable wing props (like airbrakes)

OTW-Schubklappe DE-10 2018 007 160 Starting point of the measurements for the tow drone
(patent granted 2024) retractable OTW = over-the wing propeller

Fig. 2

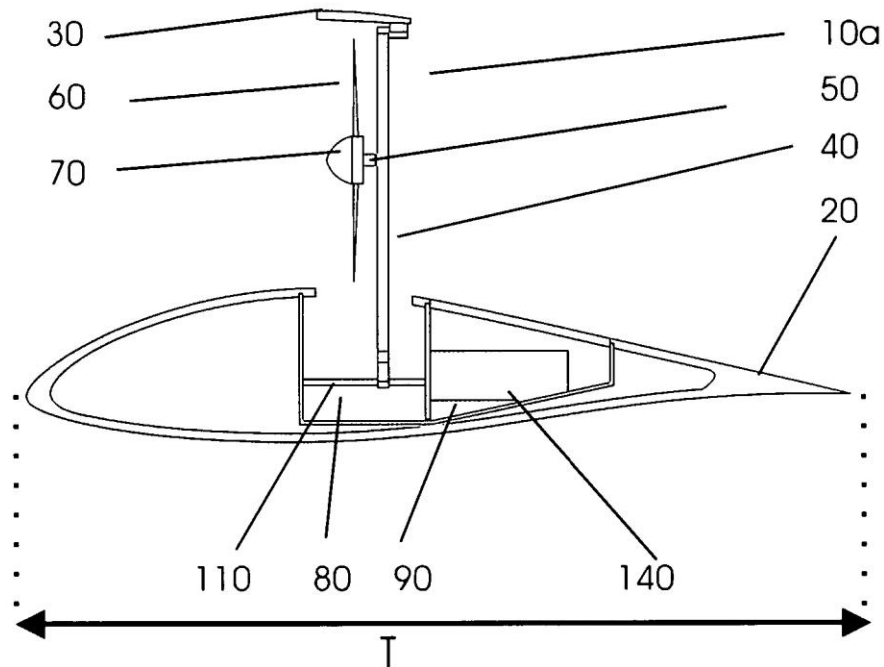
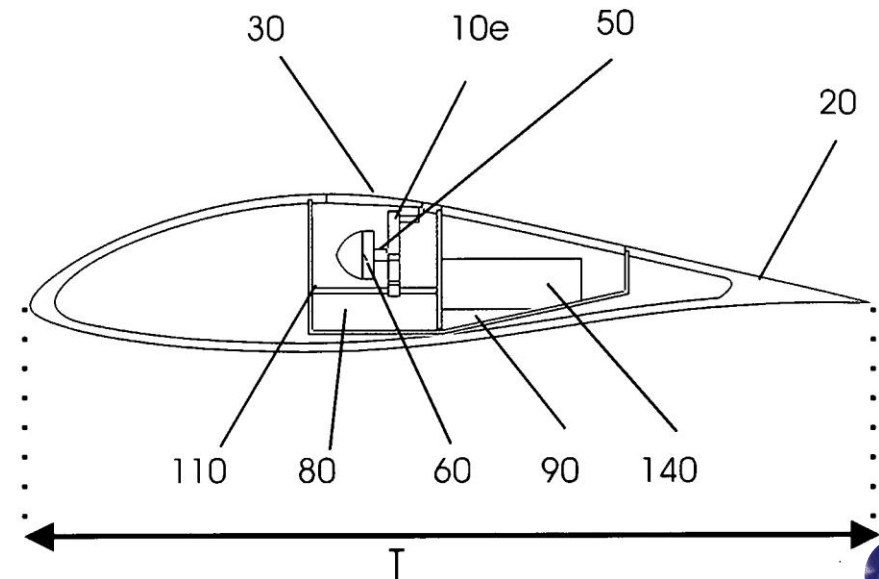


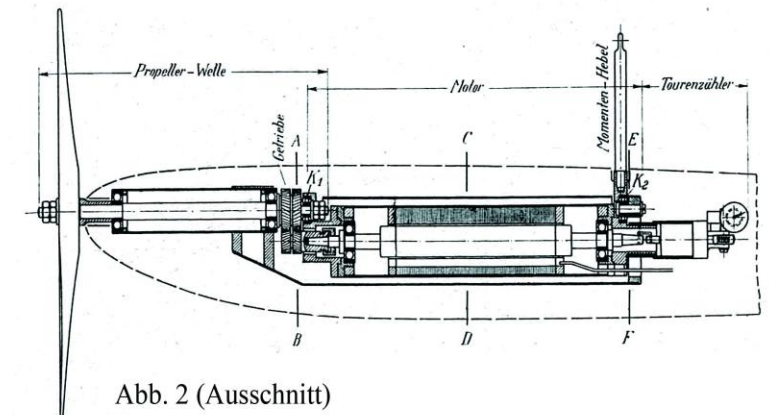
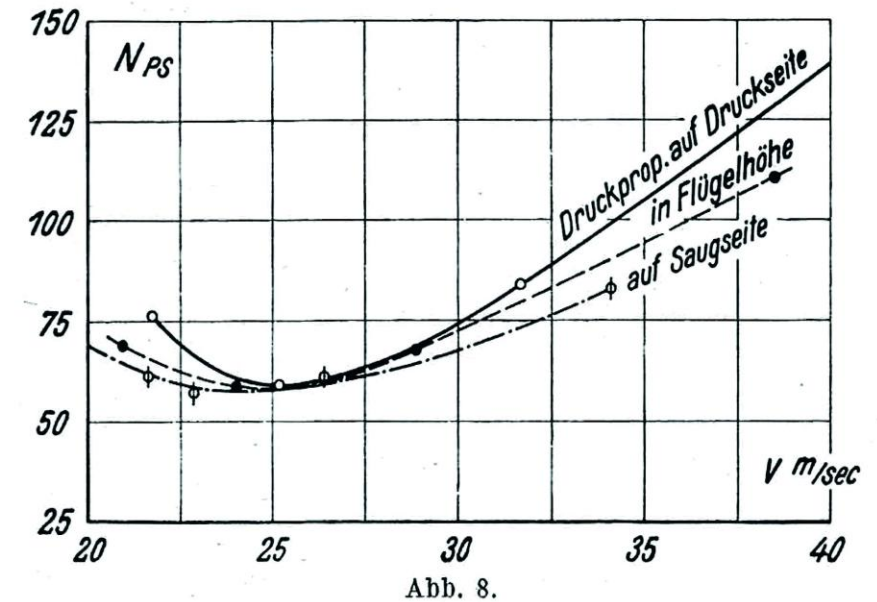
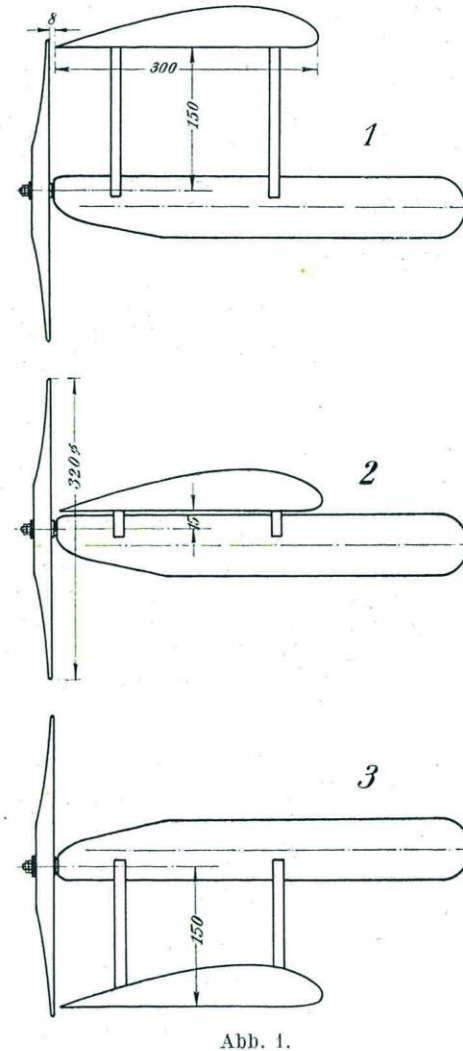
Fig. 3



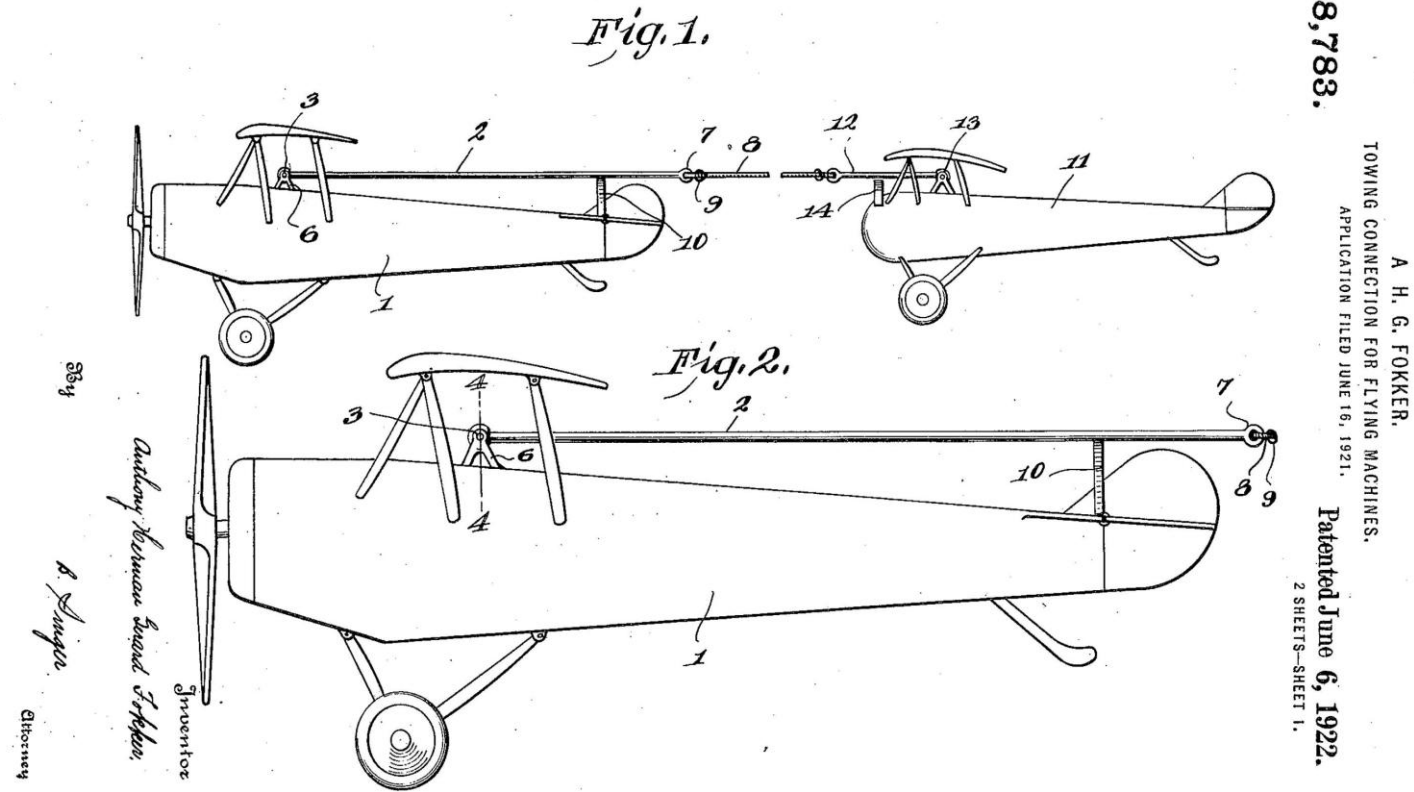
DE-10 2018 007 160

The beginnings **propeller position** **OTW props**

OTW-Prop. 1926
Reinold Seiferth,
Göttingen

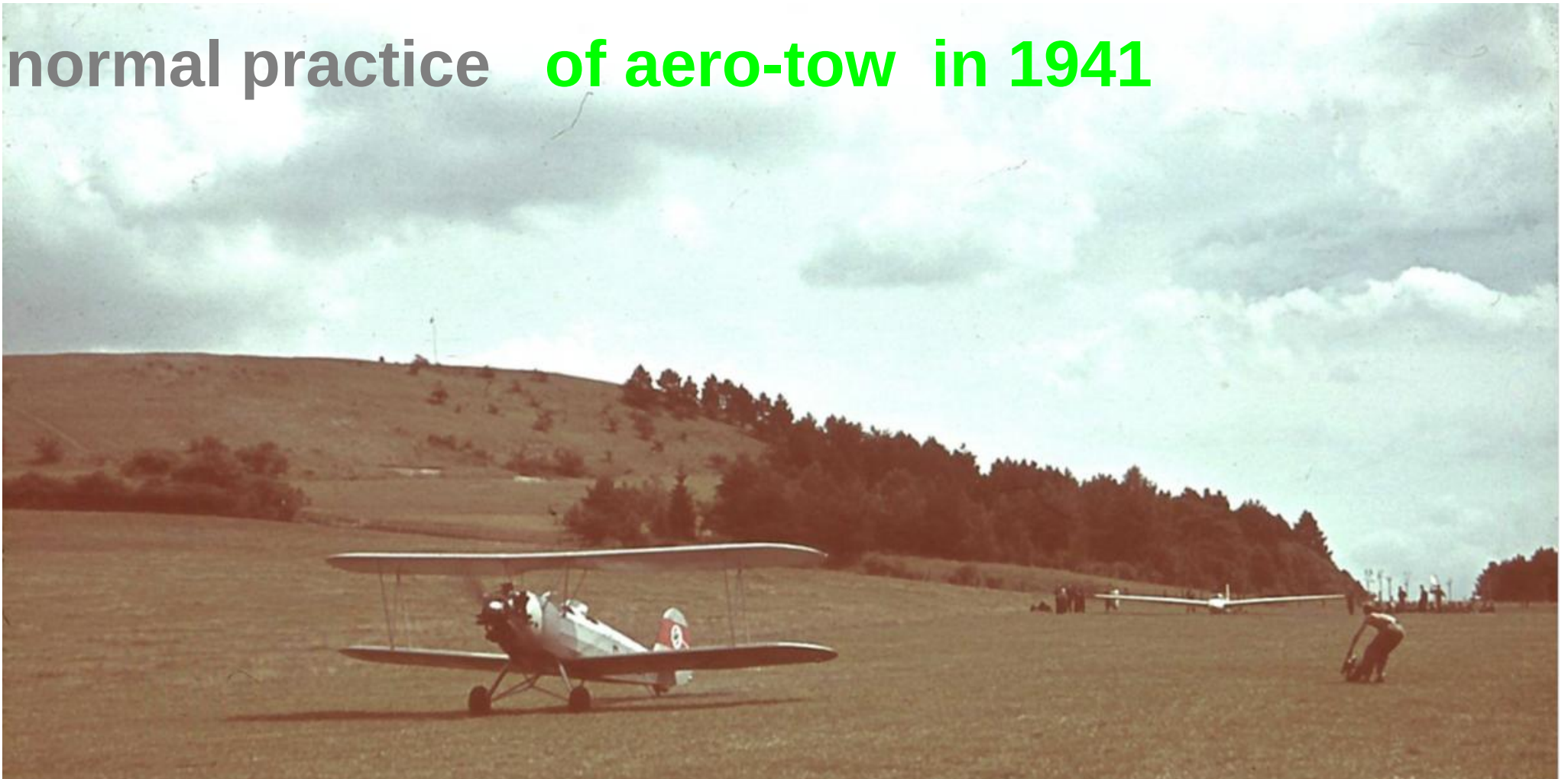


The beginnings of aero-tow



Development of the Aero-tow by Antony Fokker (NL), Glenn Curtiss (USA); Antonius Raab and Kurt Katzenstein around 1927 in Kassel Waldau

The normal practice of aero-tow in 1941



Aerotow 1941 Weper near Göttingen –Towplane Heinkel -72
(since end of 1930s a standard take-off procedure).

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flugzeugschlepp#Entwicklung_und_Etablierung_in_den_1930er_Jahren

Thanks to Hans Ulrich Renner, Halle, fotoarchive of his father)

High wing loading, tailwind and short runway – risky aerotow 2024



Comparison

Rans S7 aerotow of
double seaters

SF-34

14,8 m² wing area

ASK-21

17,8 m² wing area

tow planes

unchanged principle since 1920

	Gewicht	Spannweite	Flügel- fläche	Flächen- belast.	Leistung	V _{Max}	V _{Min}	V _(E_{Max})	E _{Max}	Stand- schub	Jahr	Streck- ung
	Mass MTOW	Span	wing area	wing loading	power	V _{Max}	V _{Min}	V _(E_{Max})	E _{Max}	static thrust	year	aspect ratio
	kg	m	m²	kg/m²	PS	km/h	km/h	km/h		N		
Heinkel-72	820	9	20,7	39,61	168	194	77	-	-	-	1933	3,9
Morane	770	9,75	12,3	62,60	150	250	73	-	-	-	1959	7,7
DR 400 - Remorqueur	1000	8,72	14,2	70,42	180	260	87	145	9,3	-	1972	5,4
➔ Rans-S7	559	8,92	13,67	40,89	100	190	66	102	8,4	1800	1985	5,8
SF-25 (Rotax)	485	16,6	17,5	27,71	100	180	60	85	20	-	1999	15,7
Bristell B23 - 915	750	9,27	11,75	63,83	140	260	80	-	8,5	-	2020	7,3
➔ Schleppdrohne towdrone	150	5,5	3	50,00	60	-	-	100	8,4	1650	-	10,1

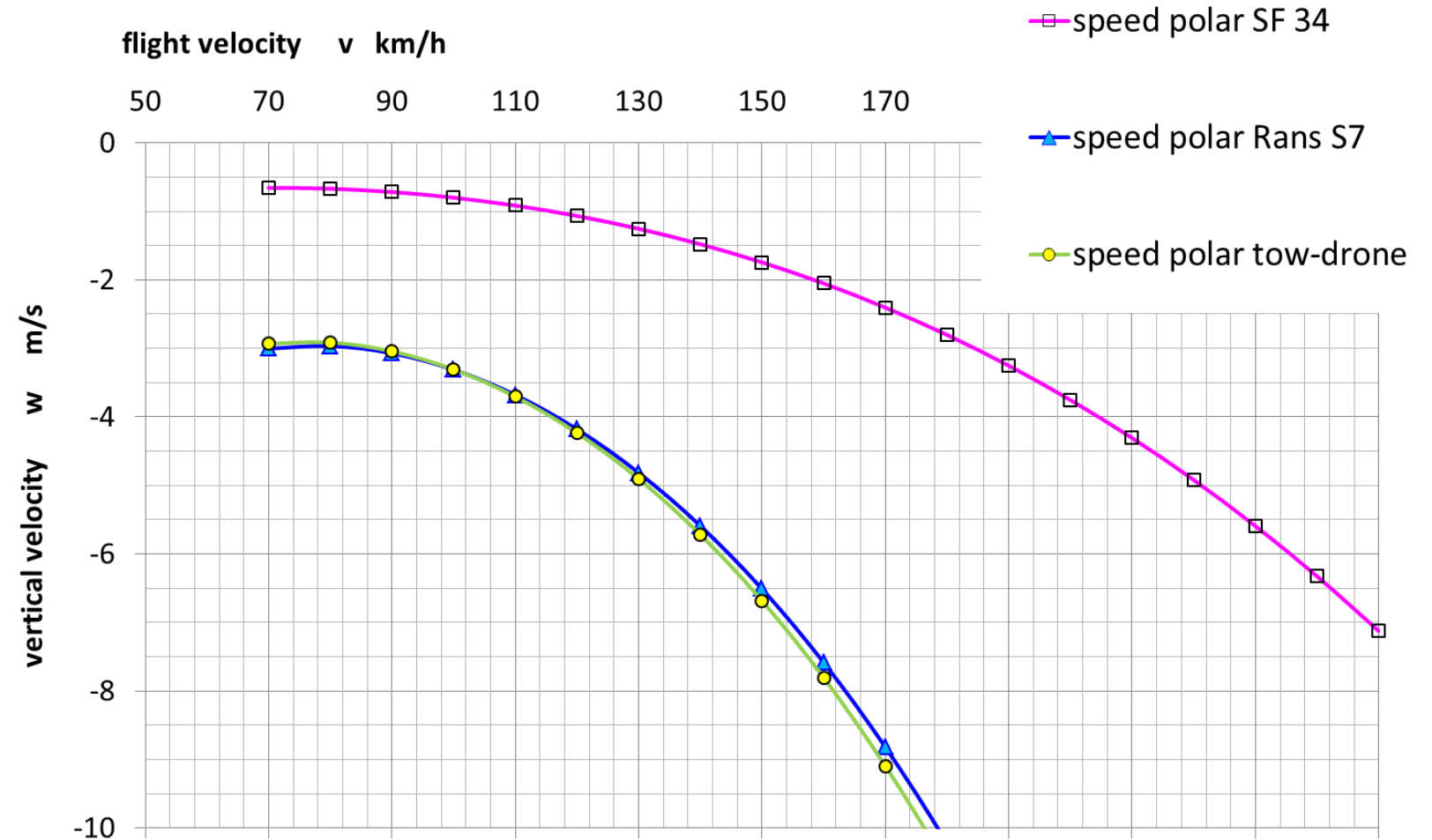
Approximation of speed polars

Reichmann (1976) und Wandering (2011) Assumption $\cos(\gamma) \approx 1$

$$w = a_1 \cdot \frac{1}{v} + b_1 \cdot v^3$$

$$b_1 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot v_{E_{opt}}^2 \cdot E_{opt}}$$

$$a_1 = \frac{v_{E_{opt}}^2}{2 \cdot E_{opt}^2}$$



Assumptions for the estimation of climb rate

drag towtrain =
drag towplane + drag glider

drag coefficient in horizontal flight and in tow equal

V (best glide) and E (best glide) define the speed polars

Formula for the climb rate of **aerotow**

$$P_{climb} = P_{thrust} - P_{hover}$$

try to achieve: **low mass** and **high thrust**

$$P_{climb} = m \cdot g \cdot w$$

$$P_{thrust} = F \cdot v, \quad P_{hover} = W \cdot v \Rightarrow F_{hover} \cdot v = W \cdot v$$

W = Drag (Widerstand)

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow P_{climb} &= P_{thrust} - W_{tot} \cdot v = m \cdot g \cdot w \\ &= P_{thrust} - (W_{towplane} + W_{glider}) \cdot v = m \cdot g \cdot w \end{aligned}$$

$$W_{tot.} =: W_{towplane} + W_{glider}$$

$$\Rightarrow w = \frac{(F - W_{tot}) \cdot v}{(m_{towplane} + m_{glider}) \cdot g}$$

Approach:

$$\text{Power for Climbing} = P_{climb}$$

$$= P_{thrust} - P_{hover}$$

= Thrust power – power for sustaining (hovering) flight

Assumption thrust as **function of flight velocity**

$$F_{towplane}(v) = F_0 - \frac{(F_0 - k \cdot F_0)}{v_{E_{opt}}} \cdot v, \quad k =: \frac{F_{E_{opt}}}{F_0}$$

$$F_{E_{opt}} = k \cdot F_0$$

$$k_{tow-drone} =: 0.55, \quad k_{towplane} =: 0.6$$

Approach:

Thrust decreases linearly with flight-velocity.

At $v(E_{opt})$ the thrust is about half the static thrust F_0

Testing facility Göttingen **SWG Seitenwind Versuchsanlage**

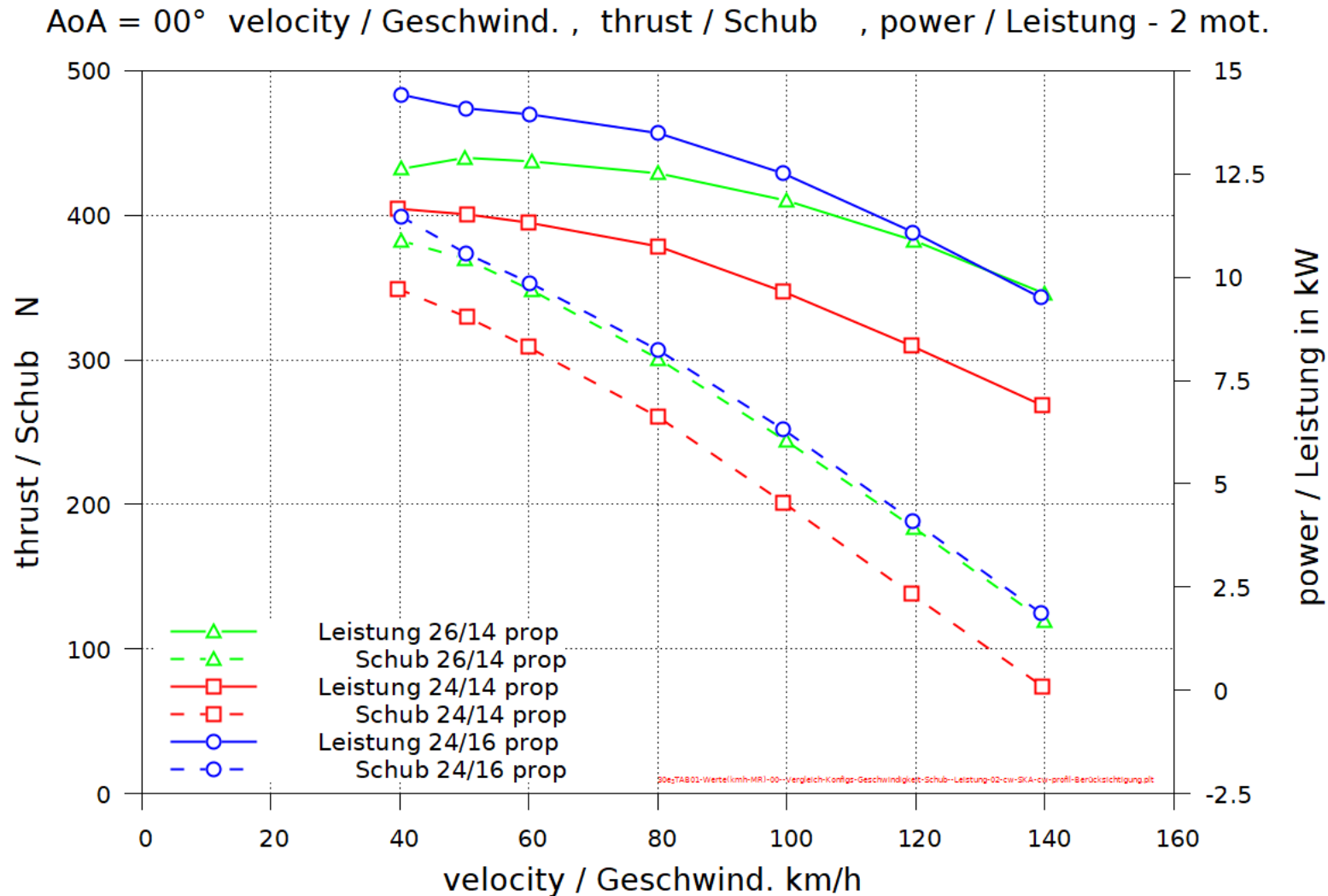


Conditions:

1: 1 Modell

40 km/h < v < 140 km/h

OTW -prop-wing interaction



Measurements OTW:

Power and thrust as function of (v) flight velocity

6000 rot/min 26 ''

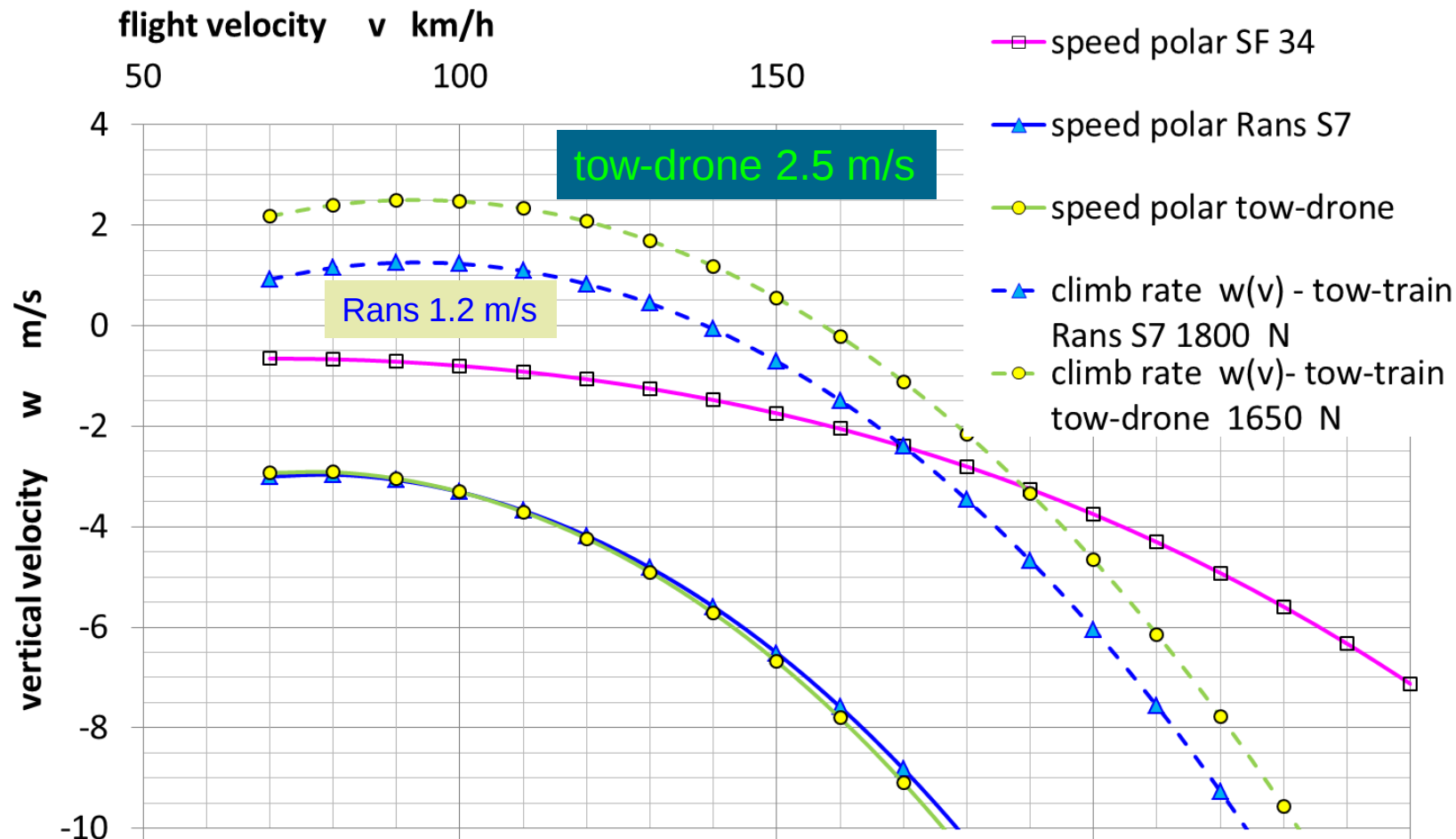
6500 rot/min 24 ''

Full power

13 kW with 2 props

26 kW with 4 props

„Aero tow polars“ and speed polars = Rans / Schleppdrohne and SF 34



Comparison :

Towplane
Rans S7
1800 N, 450 kg,

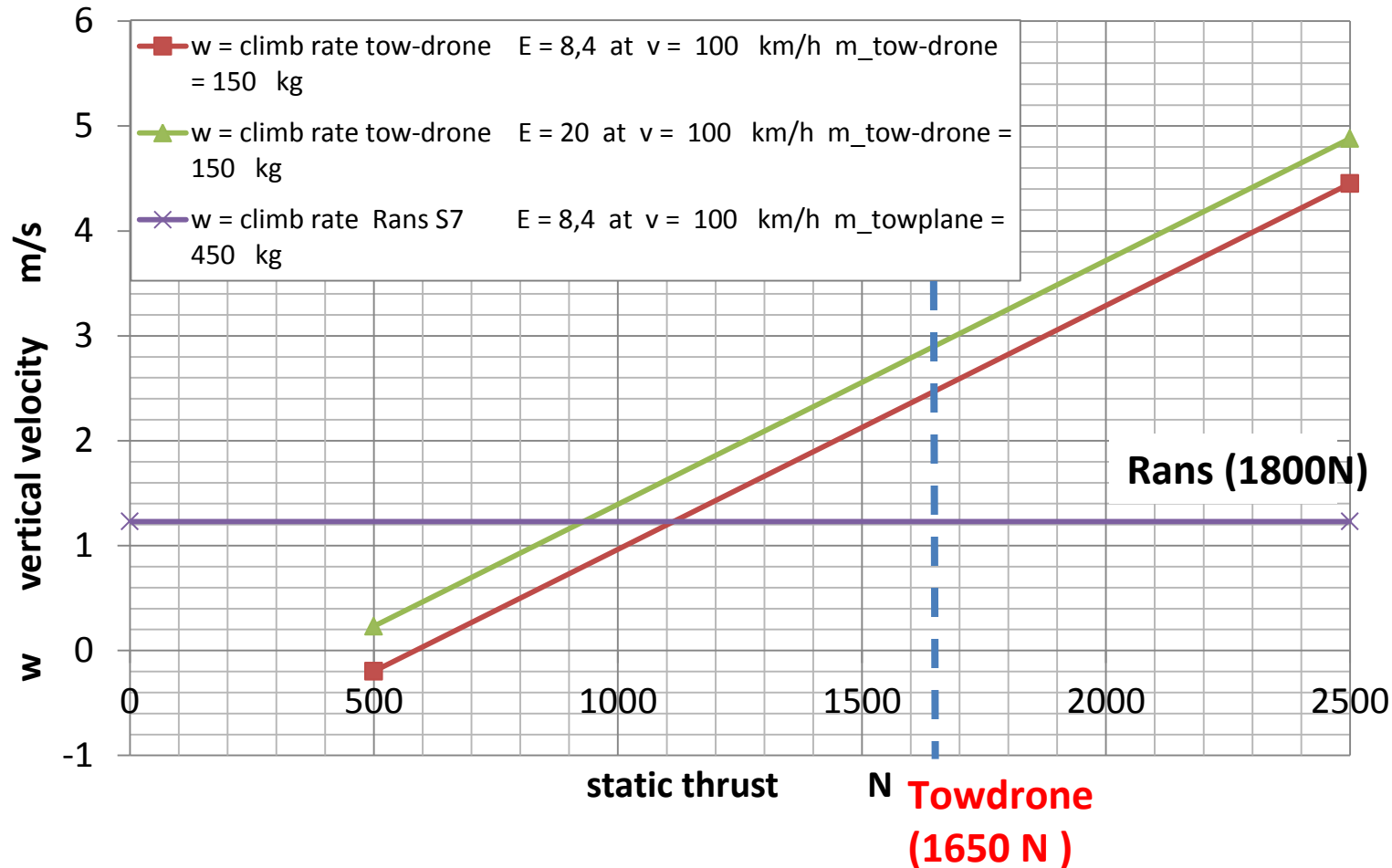
Tow-drone
1650 N, 150 kg,

SF-34, 520 kg

and

speed-polars

Influence of thrust and glide ratio E on climb rate at ($v = 100 \text{ km/h}$)

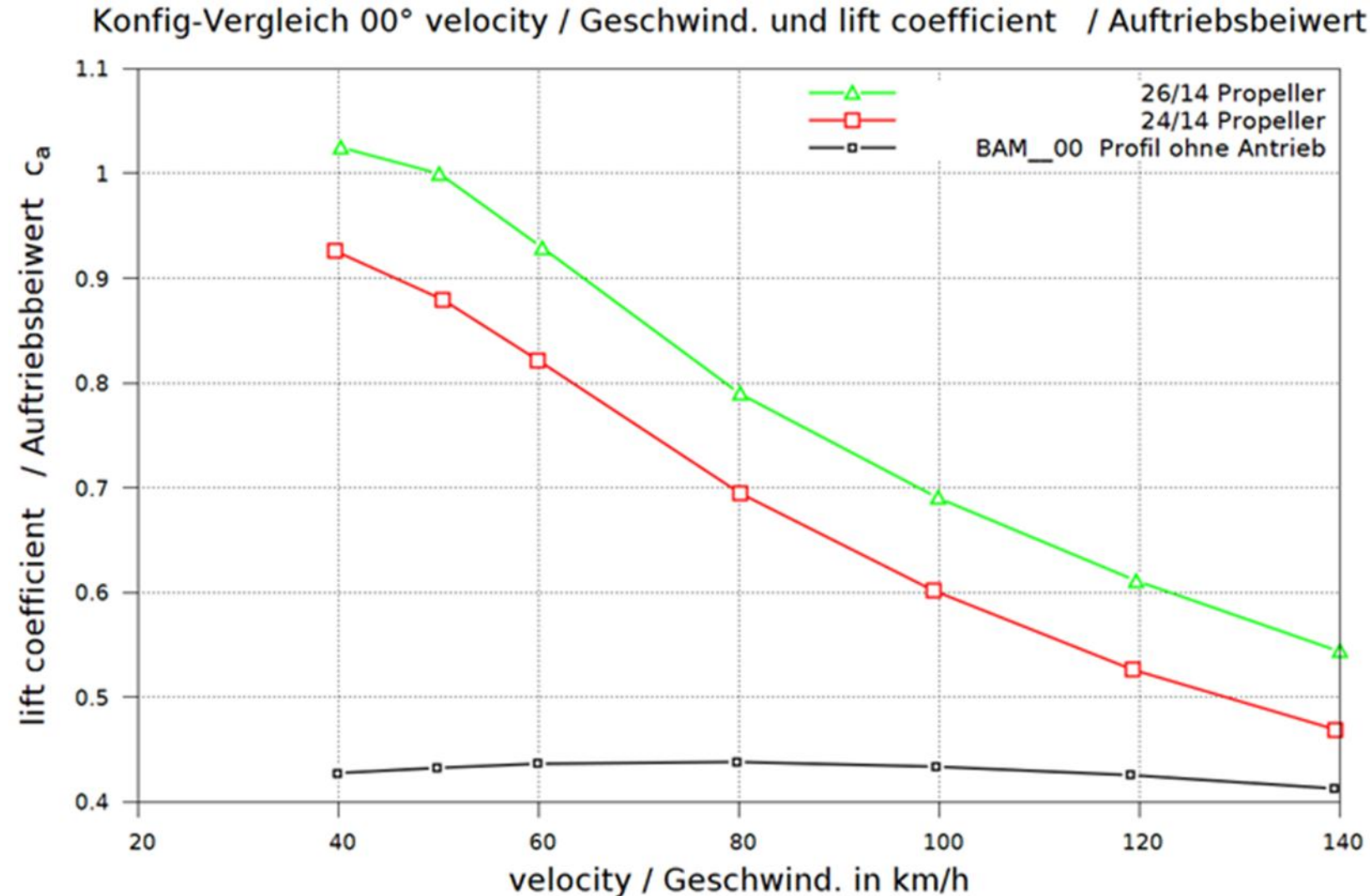


Comparison at:
100 km/h
Aerotow SF 34

Thrust of towdrone
varies from
500 N – 2500 N
 $m = 150 \text{ kg}$,

towdrone
 $E_{\text{opt}} = 20$ and $8,4$

Blown wing effect – SKA propulsion unit with profile HQ 51



OTW - measurements

Blown wing effect

6000 rot/min 26 ''

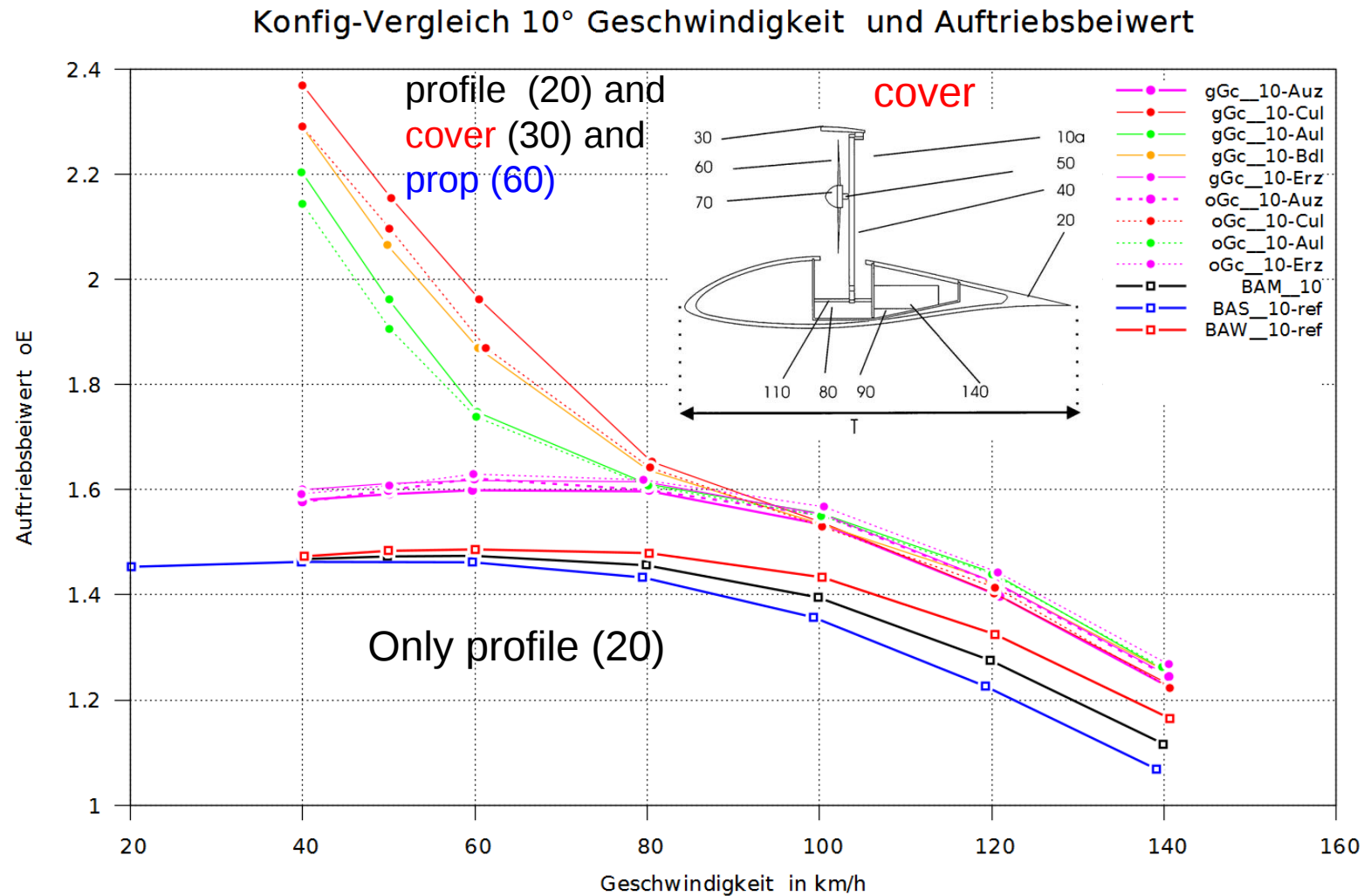
6500 rot/min 24 ''

und herzlichen Dank

an

Uwe Fey für die Messung

Blown wing effect – SKA propulsion unit with profile HQ 51



OTW - measurements

Blown wing effect

6000 rot/min 26 ''

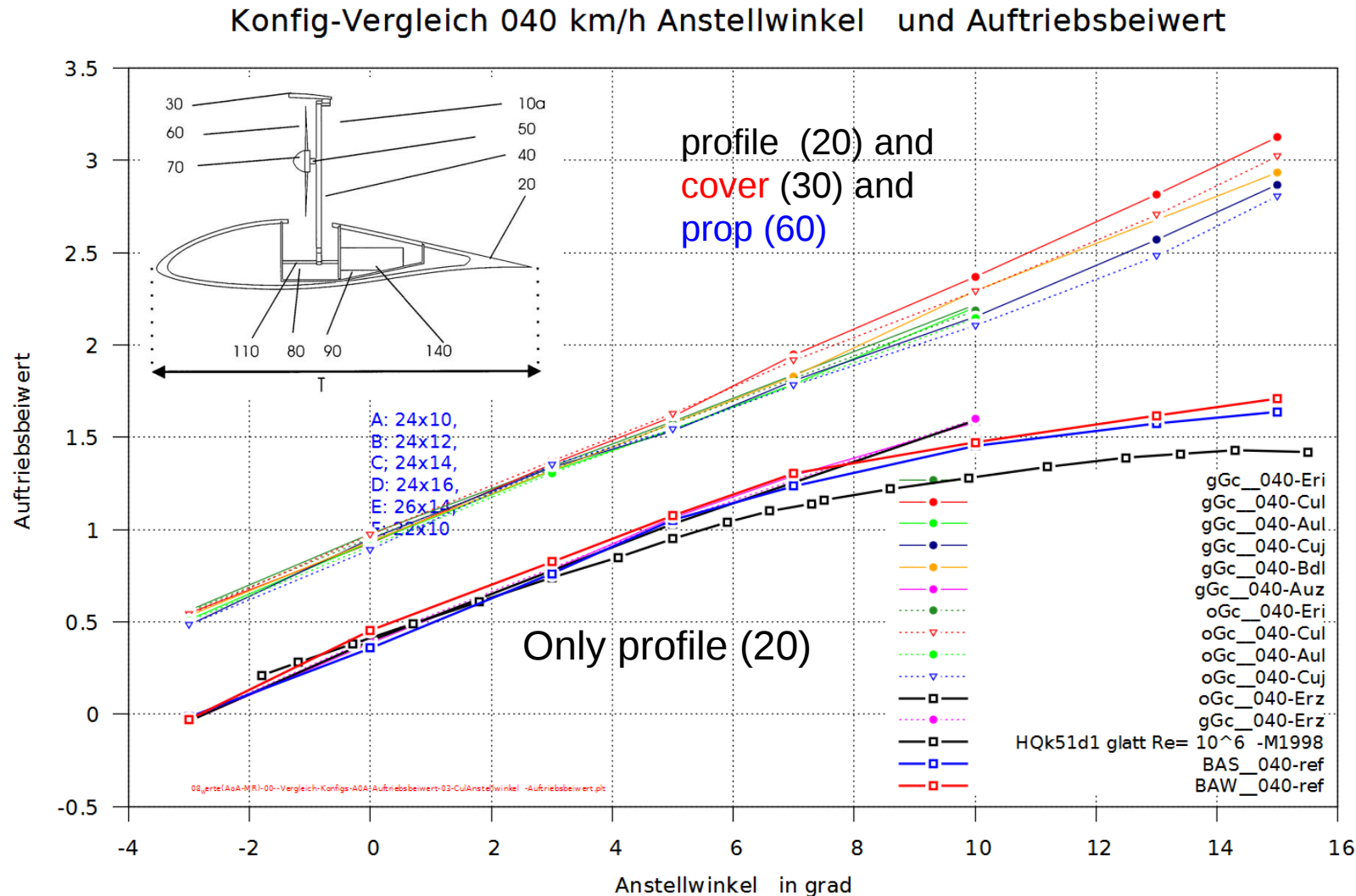
6500 rot/min 24 ''

und herzlichen Dank

an

Uwe Fey für die Messung

Blown wing effect – SKA propulsion unit with profile HQ 51



OTW - measurements

Blown wing effect

6000 rot/min 26 ''

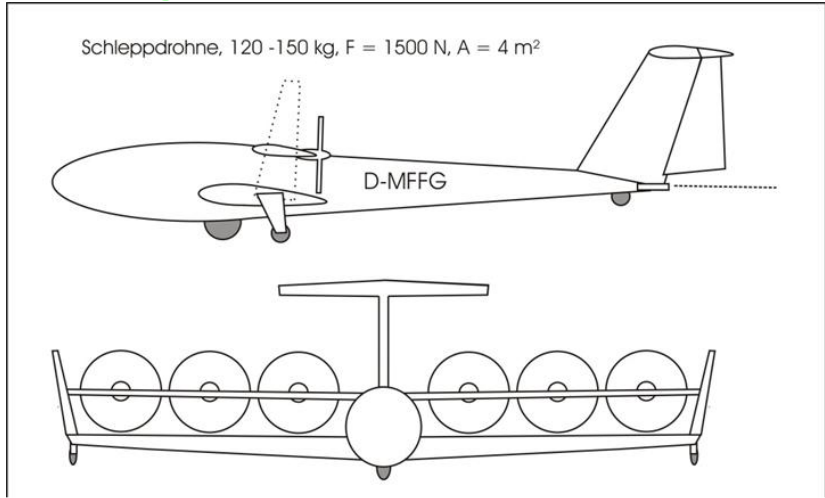
6500 rot/min 24 ''

und herzlichen Dank

an

Uwe Fey für die Messung

Energy consumption and Power $1650\text{ N} \cdot 0,026\text{ kW/N} = P_{tow} = 42,9\text{ kW}$



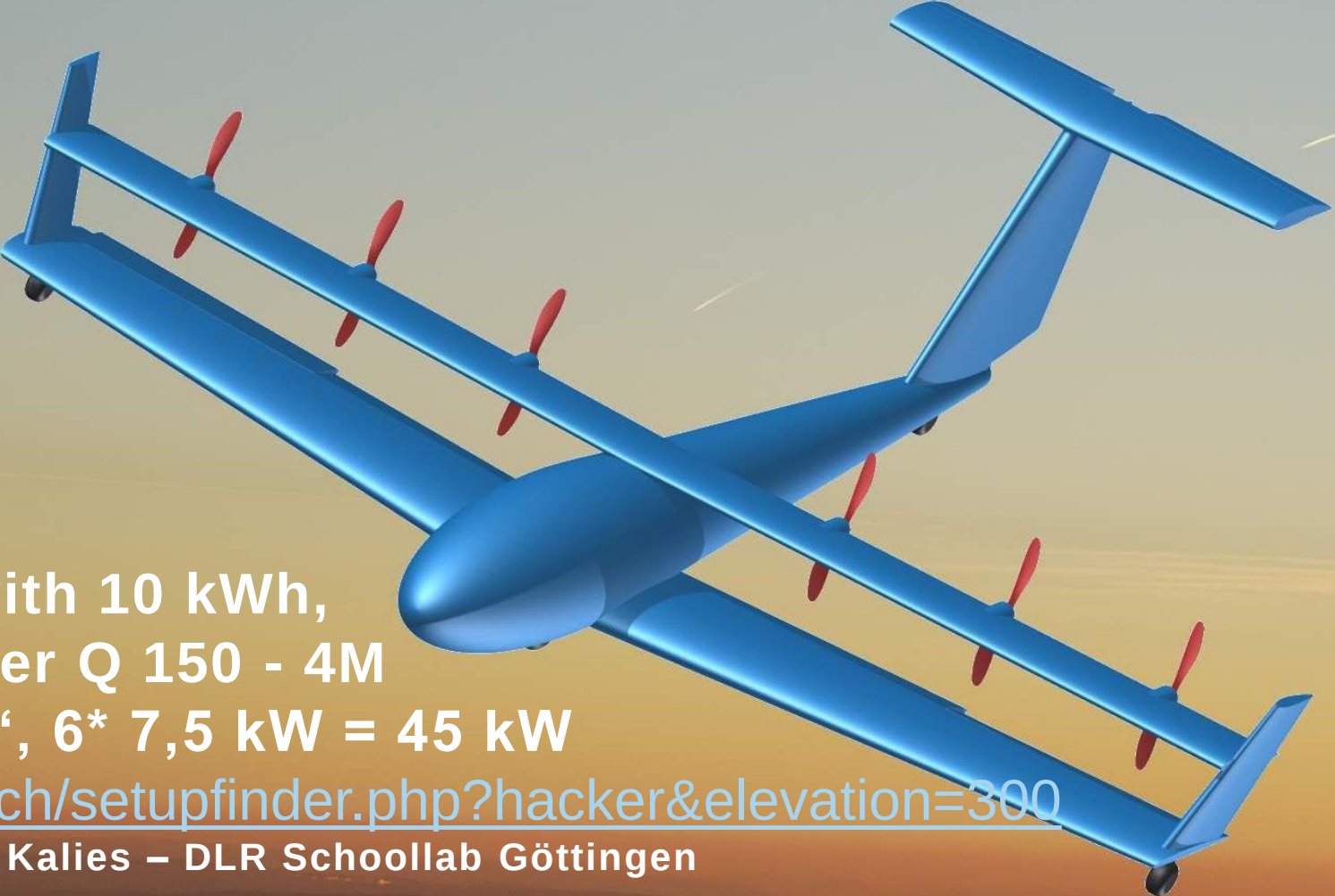
	E _{max}	v _E max	mass	w _{climb}	t _{climb}	t _{tow}	F _{stat}	P _{climb}	E	Fuel
unit; remarks		km/h	kg	m/s	s ; 500 m	min	N	kW	kWh	Liter; mogas
SF - 34	35	95	520	-	-		-	-	-	-
Tow-drone SD-1	8,4	100	150	2,5	200,0	7	1650	42,9	5,01	-
Rans S-7	8,4	102	450	1,2	416,7	11	1800	75	13,75	4

$t_{tow} \cdot P_{tow} = 7/60\text{ h} \cdot 42,9\text{ kW} = 5,01\text{ kWh}$

Towdrone SF-34
(rigid OTW-props)
5,1 kWh energy per tow

Instead of
4 l petrol i.e.
4*8,5 kWh = 38 kWh
Aero-tow:
Rans S-7 SF-34

Schleppdrohne – towdrone SD - 1

A 3D computer-generated model of the towdrone SD-1. The aircraft is blue with a high-wing configuration. It features six red propellers mounted on the wings: three on each wing. The fuselage is a simple, rounded shape. The tail consists of a vertical fin and a horizontal stabilizer. The aircraft is shown from a three-quarter perspective, flying towards the right against a light blue sky with a faint horizon line.

wingspann 6 m,
m = 150 kg,
80 kg battery with 10 kWh,
6 motors : Hacker Q 150 - 4M
6 props 32"x14", 6* 7,5 kW = 45 kW

<https://www.ecalc.ch/setupfinder.php?hacker&elevation=300>

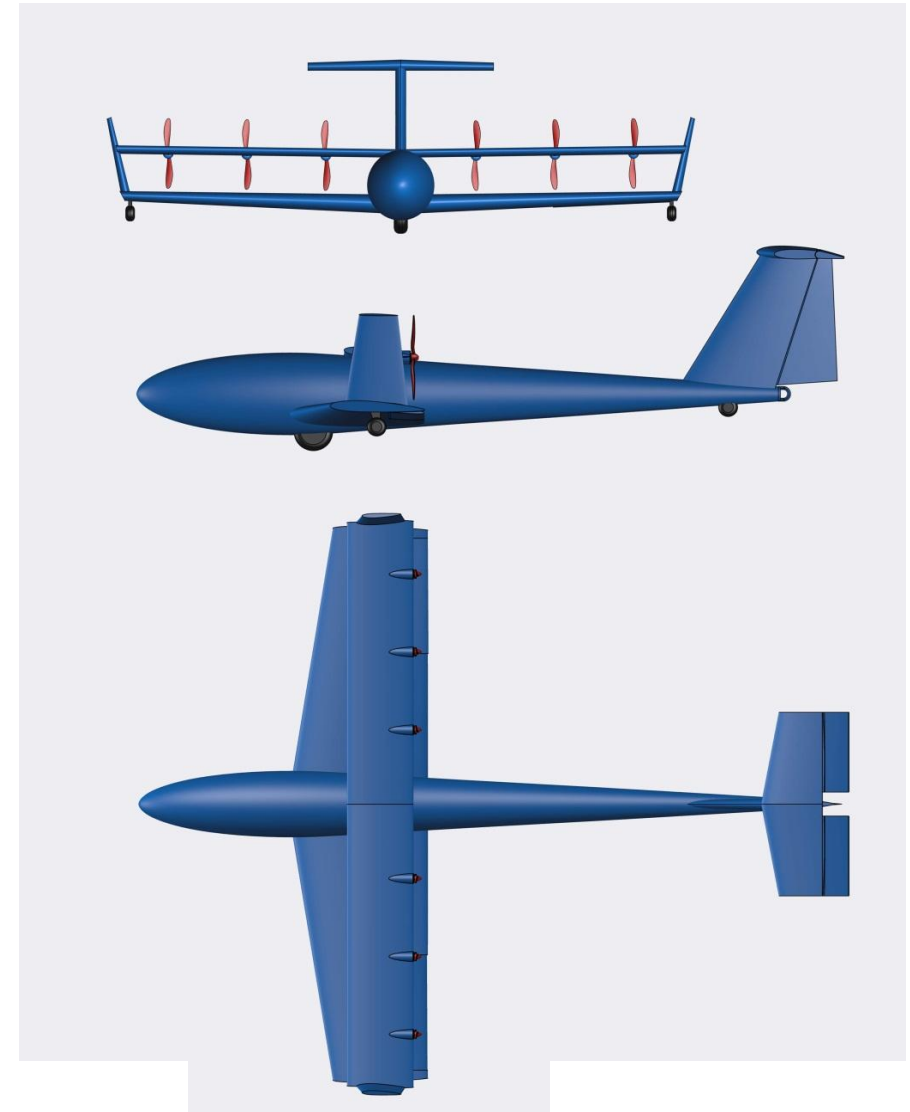
Animation von Johann Kalies – DLR Schoollab Göttingen

Schleppdrohne – towdrone SD - 1

Distributed e-drives
Over-the-wing-configuration
Low landing gear

Extremely good ratio
1650 N Schub/ thrust
150 kg Masse/mass

Geringe Risikoklasse/
low risc class
SORA (Specific Operations Risk
Assessment)

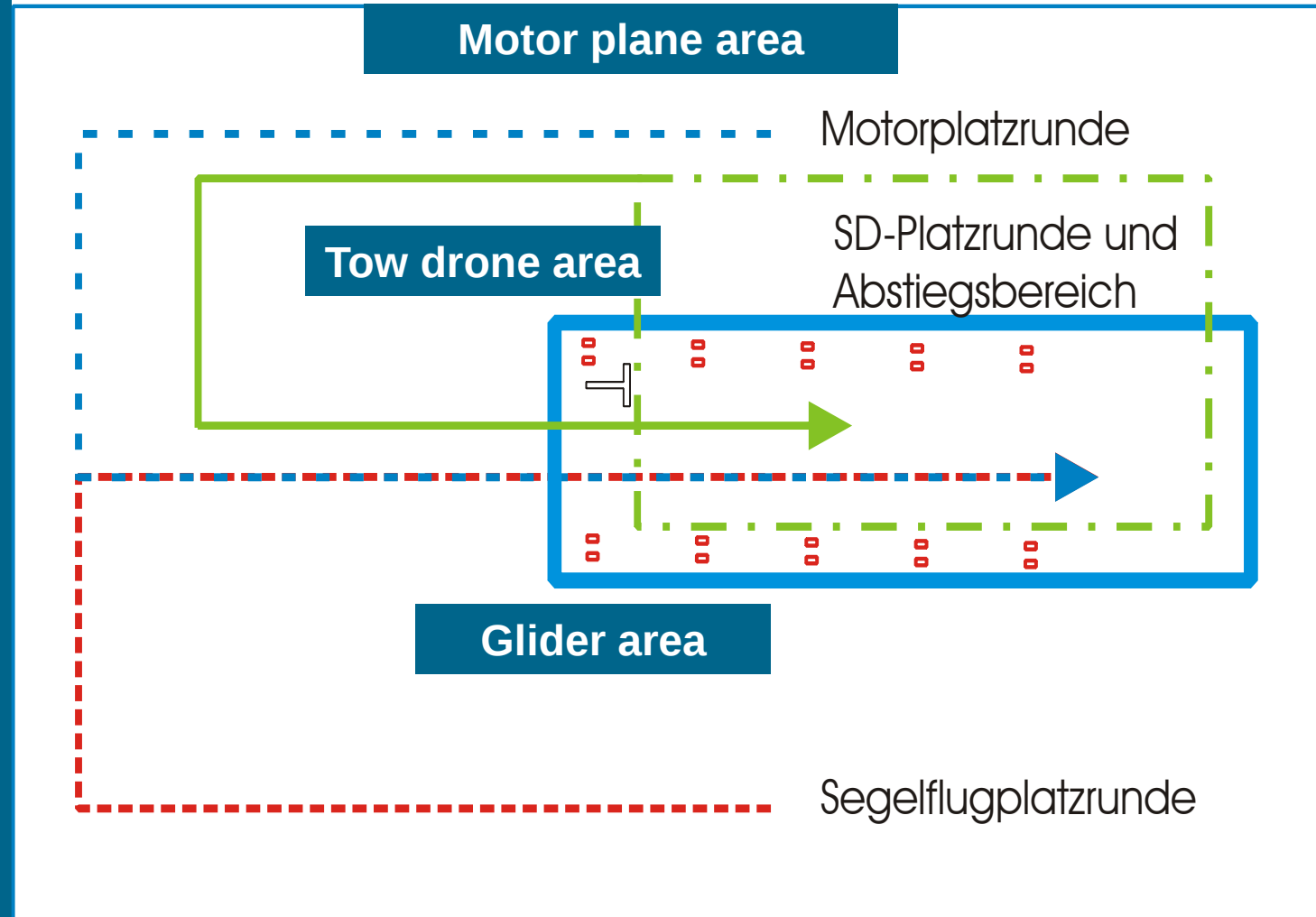


Traffic-pattern and procedure – towdrone SD – 1

Towing drone should behave like a towing aircraft

Operating procedure with SD circuit (Platzrunde) and SD descent area

comparable to the “taboo area” of over the airfield with winch launch



SORA for Tow-Drone

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/easy-access-rules/easy-access-rules-unmanned-aircraft-systems-regulations-eu> - S- 49

SORA

(Specific Operations Risk Assessment)

Spezifische Betriebsrisikobewertung

GRC - Ground Risk Class

ARC - Air Risk Class

SAIL

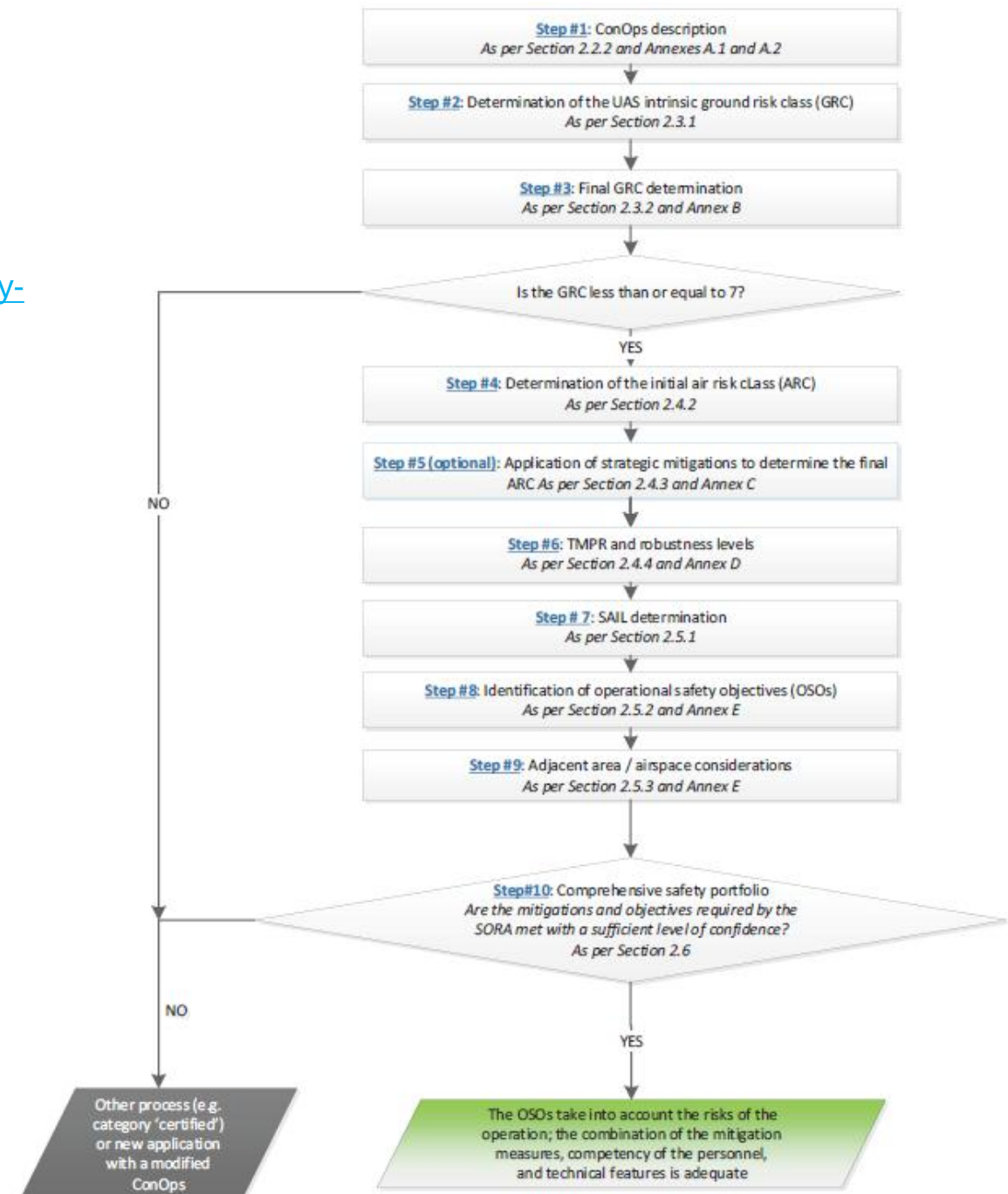
(Specific Assurance and Integrity level)

Spezifisches Sicherheits- und Integritäts -Niveau

OSO (Operational safety objective)

Betriebssicherheitsziel

Betriebsverfahren festlegen



Tow drone not only for gliders - ME 231

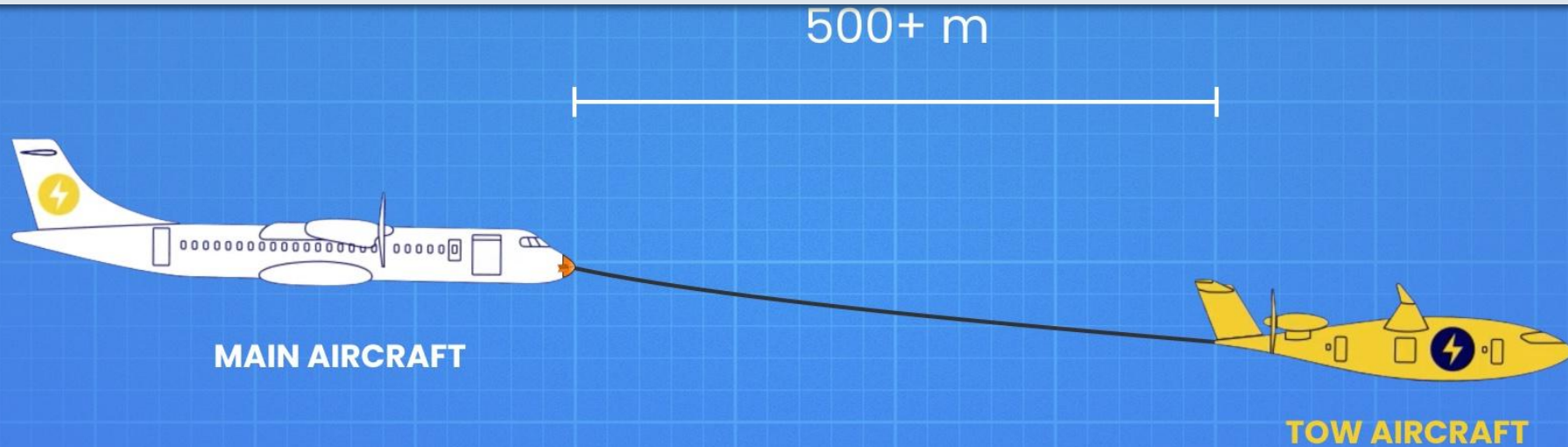


Me 231 „Gigant“ towed by He 111 Z
(Z = Zwilling = twin)

Towplane in the imagination of - **Magpie Aviation**

Problem of long distance aerotow: two similar planes means:

double mass, double drag, double energy consumption



<https://www.magpieaviation.com/aerotowing/how-it-works>
<https://www.magpieaviation.com/aerotowing/flight-tests>

Tow -drone for take-off assisting

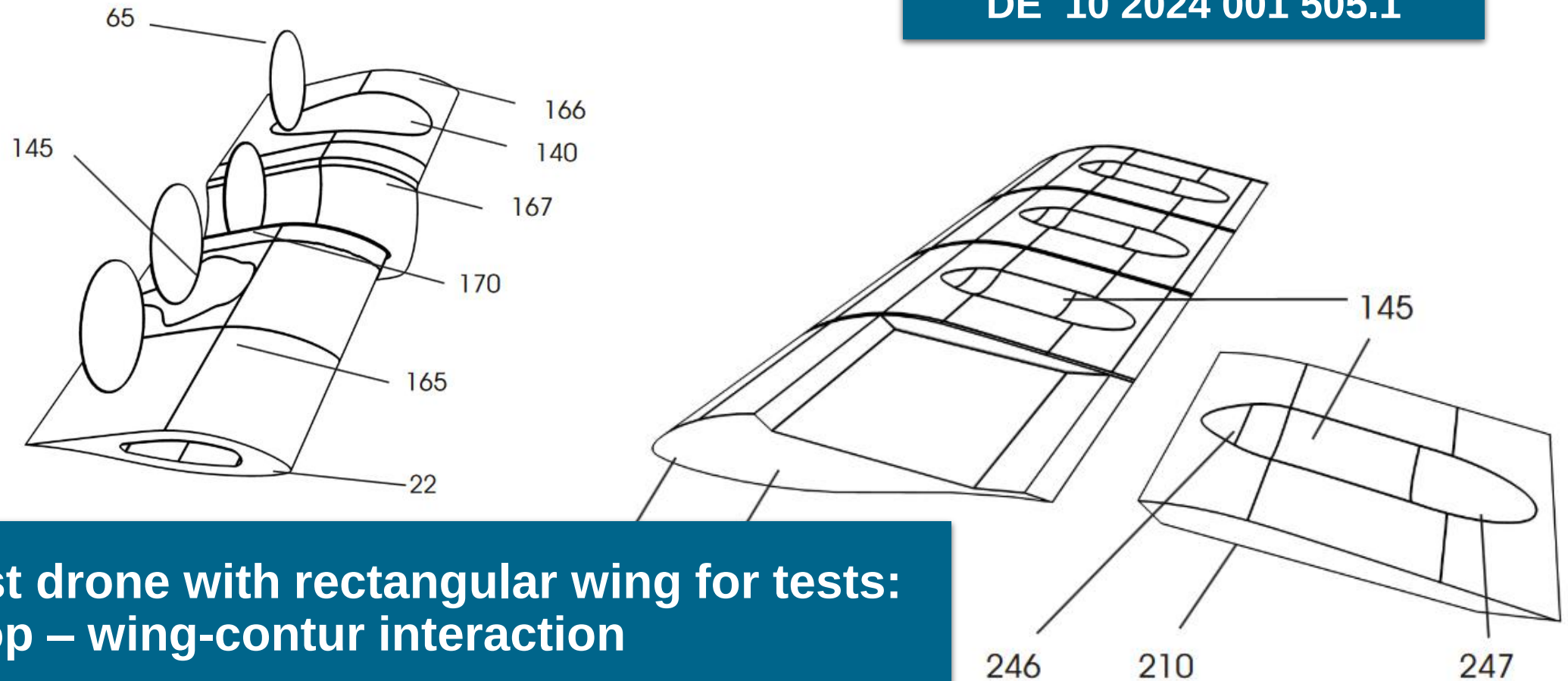
E-regional planes



**Tecnam P Volt, el. 9-seater,
Project with Widerøe
2023 Cancelled for battery problems**

Tow – drone test – drone for (Custer wing modification)

DE 10 2024 001 505.1

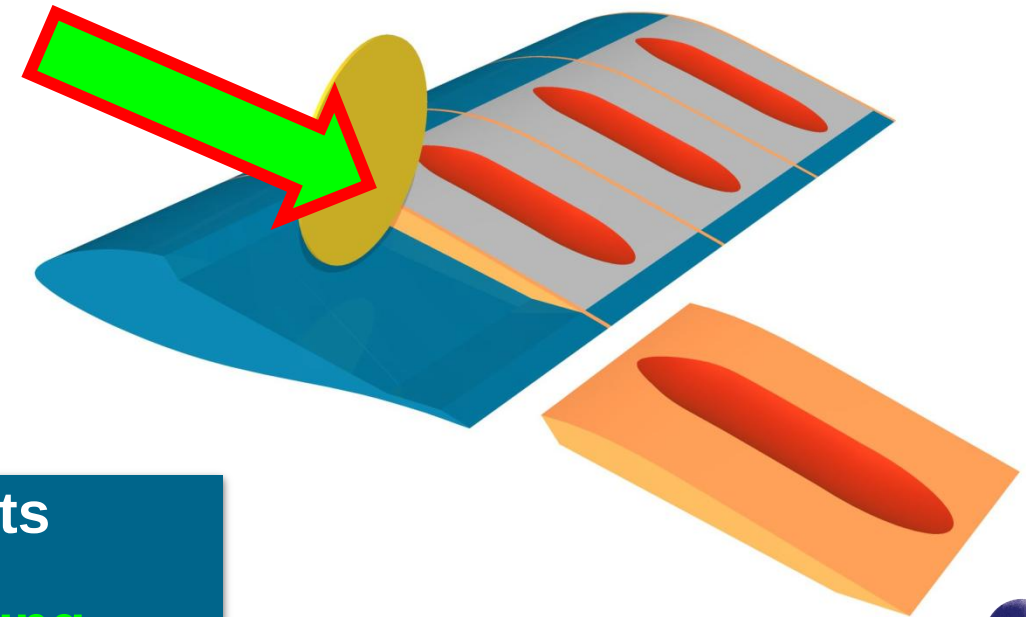
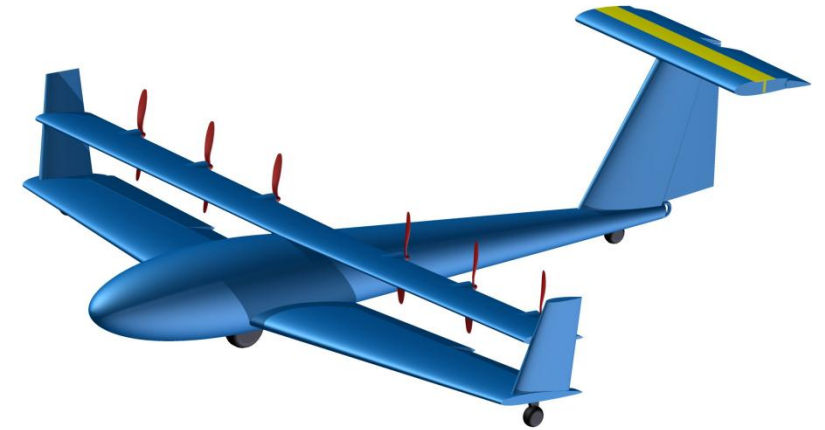
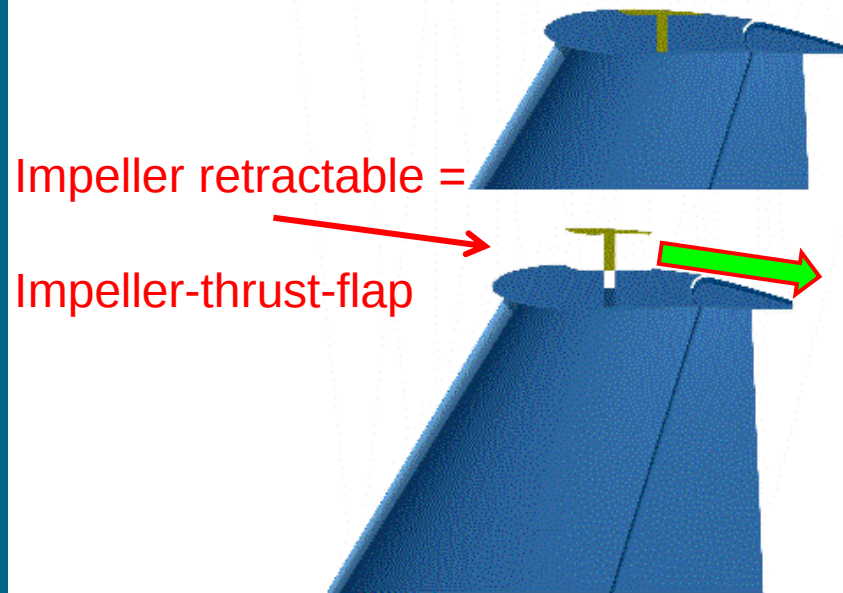


Test drone with rectangular wing for tests:
prop – wing-contour interaction

contour - spanwise formvariation
profile - streamwise formvariation

blown surfaces of wing and elevator

Test drone with blown Elevator with ISK for low speed STOL → **VSTOL**



Test drone with modular surface Elements

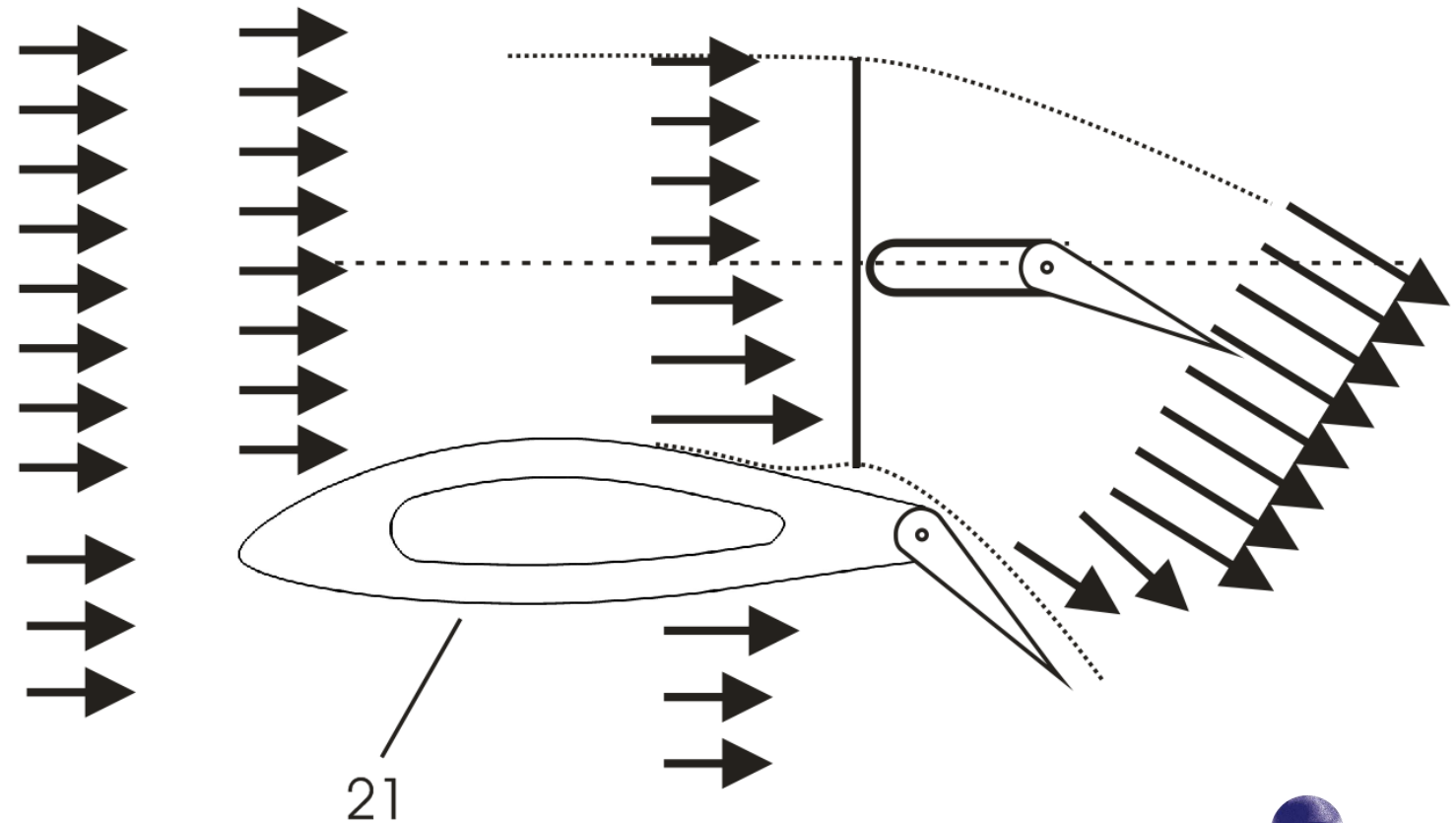
- **Contouring in spanwise direction**
- **= Konturierung in Spannweiten-Richtung**

Improvement of Custer wing

Test drone with high lift devices

- Double flap configuration

Economical and practical substitution of many applications of multicopter air-taxis



Summary: Tow-Test-Drone

- low mass, low need for resources
- low energy consumption
- high climb rate = secure take off
- secure props – over the wing
- distributed propulsion – blown wing effect
- small – small space requirement
- Independence for gliders (autonomous towdrone)
- test-drone - exploration of wing prop interaction
 - subscale testing of new principles
- Development toward low energy e-flight and V/STOL with OTW = over-the- wing configuration

Thank you for your patience and attention



PLOTTERLAND
INVENTION

looking for
cooperation partners
for development and marketing
of OTW = over-the-wing UAVs



www.coandajet.de

georg.koppenwallner@dlr.de