

No: 12/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Amateur Construction Rutan Longeze G-BLLZ

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-H2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1986

Date and time (UTC): 5 September 1987 at 1325 hrs

Location: Rochester Airport, Kent

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Minor to landing gear, propeller and engine cowling.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 53 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 195 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

Having completed the normal pre-flight drills, including a satisfactory power check, the pilot started his take-off run into a 20 kt headwind. The runway was wet and the grass rather long for this class of aircraft which has wheels of only 8 inches in diameter. The pilot reports that acceleration was poor and having covered half of the 827 metre runway he had achieved an airspeed of only 50 kts against a required lift-off speed of 60 kts. An attempt to raise the nose failed and the pilot decided to abandon the take-off. Before he could action his decision, the aircraft became airborne on contacting a bump in the runway and rose to a height of about 10 feet before sinking back sustaining damage to the landing gear, propeller and engine cowling.