

Great Indoor Duration Site – Cargo Lifter hangar, Germany.

....it was so high we needed a big steering balloon...



Cargolifter Hangar Brand. 2001.

Laprov

Probably the most amazing indoor flying site ever, sadly now a tropical Theme Park! With a ceiling of around 340' and great flying conditions inside some amazing CAT IV records were set in here during 2001 and early 2002. Availability meant that it never got to host a European or World Championships – though it came close in 2002 when the Euro Champs had to be relocated to the Millenium Dome in the UK.

Cargolifter AG came into being in 1996 with the objective of developing an extremely heavy lift capability airship – the CL160. They first needed somewhere to build it so the hangar was constructed on the ex Soviet airbase at Brand-Briesen. A smaller prototype was built (CL75) and first left the hangar in October 2001 but was destroyed in a storm in July 2002, just after the company had become insolvent. The Tropical Islands resort was opened in 2004.

Once again I'm short of personal recollections of the great flying that took place here, if anyone would like to contribute along the lines below together with a few more photos, I would be really grateful.

This is one memorable, record breaking flight that Bob Bailey recollects, we think in early 2002.

“This flight occurred after the close of the formal competition, I’d had some good flights with my F1R (35cm) and decided to let it rip and go for a big one as I knew that a new record was possible. The model was quite light, certainly sub 400mg using Y2K2 covering and as it used a Fixed Pitch (FP) propeller could well have been down towards the 350mg mark.

I had given the motor a good wind with just a little back off and had started to walk out to the central launch point (probably best part of 100m!) when I noticed a small buckle in the MS – a quick dab of cyano sorted that out and I continued to the centre and launched. The model settled into a steep climb which I was happy to stand and watch for a while before returning to the side to follow the rest of the flight. When I then turned and tried to find the model again it had completely disappeared against the light coloured skin of the hangar. Probably about 15 minutes later I spotted a tiny flickering light turning in miniscule circles at what appeared to be the apex of the roof, obviously the model’s propeller.

It was probably the best part of 300’ up at this point and then made a gradual descent before deadsticking at about 100’ – still centred in the middle of the vast floor area.”

The time was indeed a new record of 36m20s though this was destined not to stand for long as incredibly first John Tipper exceeded it with a 36m30s in the much lower Millenium Dome (160’) before BB retook it with a fantastic 36m50s using a Variable Pitch prop (probably the first for the 35cm model), again in the Millenium Dome. The record stands to this day.

What a pity we can’t put a mezzanine floor over the resort!!

Here’s a few more photos....

