



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TURBINE P-BARON by ROCKET ENGINEERING MAKES FIRST FLIGHT

Spokane, WA – September 16th, 2008 – Rocket Engineering Corporation announced today that their newest turbine conversion - the PT6A B-58P P-Baron - made its inaugural flight at approximately 3:30 PM PST from the company's headquarters in Spokane, WA. The initial 30-minute flight focused on testing of the aerodynamic stability and general handling characteristics of the newly re-engined "Turbine Cougar Baron".

According to test pilot and Chief Engineer Darwin Conrad, "all aspects of the initial test flight were predictable, and the handling and performance qualities were better than anticipated". The P-Baron turbine conversion will replace the B-58P's original Lycoming 520 piston engines with the 500 shp PT6A-21 turbine engines from P&WC. The PT6A has long been the industry benchmark for reliability, dependability and fuel-efficiency.

The P-Baron turbine conversion will boast a 4500-foot per minute initial rate of climb, 300 KTAS, a 900 nm range with an average fuel burn of 52 gph/348 pph (according to Rocket Engineering's preliminary expectations). "The combination of speed, performance and economy of the new P-Baron PT6A turbo-prop are very realistic, and will serve as a viable and compelling alternative to the yet unproven VLJ market", states Rocket Engineering's President Darwin Conrad.

Rocket Engineering Corporation will continue the P-Baron Turbine Supplemental Type Certification program through the rest of 2008 and early into 2009 - with advanced structural engineering analysis, flutter testing and exhaustive flight characteristics testing. Formal FAA STC approval is expected in late 2009. The Turbine Cougar Baron will be the fourth in Rocket Engineering Corporation's line of PT6A turbine engine conversions, including the single engine "JetPROP DLX" (Mirage), "TurbineAir" (Bonanza B36TC) and twin engine "Royal Turbine" (B60 Duke).

File Photo Included Below

