

Eclipse 500 light-weight jet sets new speed record using less fuel

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October 22, 2007 Eclipse Aviation has set a National Aeronautic Association (NAA) performance record to claim the title of the industry's fastest jet aircraft weighing 10,000 pounds or less with its twin-engine Eclipse 500. The aircraft averaged 393.32 miles per hour (341.79 knots or 632kph) to beat the existing NAA record on October 7, 2007 on a flight from New York (Westchester) to Atlanta (Peachtree-Dekalb) that took just one hour, 55 minutes, and eight seconds. Not only was the record broken by a margin of 20 percent, but the jet flown by Don Taylor, Senior Fellow at Eclipse Aviation, used approximately 25 percent less fuel than the Cessna Citation Mustang which set the previous mark on September 22, 2007.

This new U.S. national speed record was set in the NAA record category of Class C, Aeroplanes - Very Light Jets (VLJ). Eclipse created this category with the manufacture of the world's first very light jet - defined as a jet-powered airplane with a maximum gross takeoff weight of 10,000 pounds or less, holding a standard airworthiness certificate, and capable of carrying four or more passengers.