

AIRCRAFT OF THE YEAR

Winner: EV-97 teamEurostar

FLYER
AWARDS
2003



The Eurostar flew off with this year's Aircraft of the Year award because not only does it look right, it does everything right, too.

From its anodised aluminium skin to its near-100kt cruise and simple handling, the Eurostar impressed us in every way – and it's a 450kg microlight.

Under the cowl there's an 80hp Rotax 912 which combined with the low weight provides a terrific climb rate of 1000fpm, and a max level speed of 103kt.

Inside the cockpit, an area that can be a letdown among the 450kg microlights, we reckoned that it was outstanding both in appearance and function, being

very much like a normal 'beefy' Group A aircraft. We also found the view outside staggering and more like that from a helicopter than a fixed-wing aircraft.

At the moment it's a kitbuild, but importer Cosmik Aviation hopes soon to offer a type-approved version. There is also now a PFA-approved 465kg VLA kit which the company hopes to increase to 480kg.

In our flight test (**FLYER**, July 2002) we summed it up by saying: "The Eurostar is viceless with fantastic handling, good visibility and, despite its weight, a robustness that belies its stature. Most of all it's a joy to fly and will enthrall pilots from all disciplines."