



SUPER YACHTS

Take to the Skies

"TO BE HAPPY IN THIS WORLD, FIRST YOU NEED A CELL PHONE AND THEN YOU NEED AN AIRPLANE. THEN YOU'RE TRULY WIRELESS."

Ted Turner



by GLENN R. WALLIS

It was an innovation that the world had never seen before that was exposed at the 2008 Monaco Yacht Show. Business owners were delighted, private yacht owners were stunned, and those who love to have fun felt a sudden surge of adrenaline at the possibilities. The companies Danish Yacht and LISA Airplanes (Light Innovative Sport Aircraft) officialised their alliance offering the prospect of providing a multi-access plane on board a super yacht.

Introducing the 300,000 Euro (US \$422,758) Lisa Akoya. The all-composite Akoya-light sport aircraft features a retractable landing gear with skis for snow and ice landings, as well as unique hydrofoil landing gear that bear a striking resemblance to shark fins for water landings.

DESIGNED TO FLY FROM AIRSTRIP TO YACHT TO SKI SLOPE, THE SPORTY MULTI-ACCESS AMPHIBIAN CATERS PERFECTLY TO THE BUSINESS AND LEISURE NICHE OF THE VERY WEALTHY.

Entirely built from high-tech composite materials and capable of landing on a mere 100-metre strip, the luxurious Akoya also features a swivelling wing to make it storable in a narrow garage or on a yacht. This is the only aircraft designed that is able to land on the ground, water and snow, concentrating the assets of both the helicopter and the seaplane. It unifies flying lovers and water enthusiasts with an elegance that is remarkably futuristic.

The two companies are offering to replace the classic and bulky helicopter with an original, high standard plane on board a super yacht. This multi-access hybrid has hydrofoils to guarantee agility,

comfort and safety on water. It also has retractable skis when flying, revolving wings, and to protect you in any delicate situation the AKOYA is fitted with the ultimate safety device: a parachute that ensures you and the machine a soft landing. The Ri&Flex Wing system allows for short takeoffs and landings, permitting you to make steep approaches to avoid obstacles around the runway. At low speeds, in case of stall, the wing's characteristics give the plane a 'natural' behaviour without any brutal stalling.

When retracted, the Ri&Flex Wing works in conjunction with the aerodynamic fuselage to make the AKOYA insensible to gusting winds and a delight to piloting. These are essential qualities in case of engine failure. With a range of 1500km and a maximum speed of 300kmh, the Akoya is clearly targeted at wealthy aviation enthusiasts wishing for an exciting and unique bridge between yachting and skiing leisure lifestyles.

The hefty 300,000 Euro price tag will include the aircraft, the ULM license required to fly it, training from Lisa's own specialists in water and snow takeoffs and landings, a personalized painting, a footbridge to a water-based pontoon and several accessories. With 45 of the craft expected to be produced before the end of 2009, Lisa are already predicting they won't be able to satisfy demand. The company says that first deliveries in 2010 will be to customers in France, Russia and South Africa.

LISA AIRPLANES

For more information: www.lisa-airplanes.com

