



The low sides of the cockpit give the author a good view of a good view.

# Flying the Electric Antares by Roger Buchanan

The Antares accelerates, levitates, and climbs out – nothing unusual here. But what is unusual as I take off from Zweibrücken, the home of Lange Flugzeugbau, is that I have not reached the red alert level, my normal state for a self-launch. Without engine noise and vibration to scare me, I have reached level yellow at most. Yet it is not as quiet as I imagined when I first read about the Antares two years ago. Even at 1500 rpm, the propeller makes some noise.

What drew me to the Antares initially was the prospect of a competitive, self-launching sailplane with minimal maintenance, rock-solid reliability, and advances in cockpit safety and comfort. We will see in a couple of years whether it fulfilled its promise, but right now the cockpit is as comfortable as my armchair at home, and I am climbing at 800 feet per minute, under power, in relative quiet.